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**LETTERS AND STATE PAPERS.**













# LETTERS AND STATE PAPERS

DURING THE

## REIGN OF KING JAMES THE SIXTH.

CHIEFLY FROM THE MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS OF  
SIR JAMES BALFOUR OF DENMYLN.

*edited by  
James Maidment.*

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## PREFATORY NOTICE.

THE Papers contained in the present volume, with the exception of two interesting Letters communicated by Mr David Laing, Librarian to the Society of Writers to the Signet, are taken from the Collections of the Earl of Balcarres, and of Sir James Balfour of Denmiln, Bart., Lord Lyon King at Arms, both of which are preserved in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates.

The Balcarres Papers were collected by John Lindsay of Menmuir, Secretary of State to James VI.,\* and gifted to the Library of the Faculty of Advocates, in the year 1712, by his descendant, Colin, third Earl of Balcarres. They were little known till within these few years, having neither been sorted nor arranged in any manner of way; and it was not till some time after the appointment of the present learned Librarian that they were withdrawn from their obscure recesses, and

\* He died at the age of forty-nine, on the 3d of September 1598.

made available to the public. The greater proportion of them refers to the reign of the Queen Regent, Mary of Lorraine, and includes an extensive correspondence with the Court of France, in which are to be found letters of Catherine de Medicis, Henry II., the celebrated Anne Constable de Montmorency, Diana of Poitiers (Duchess of Valentinois), and other equally distinguished persons. The letters during the reign of James VI. are comparatively few, and relate chiefly to his negotiations with foreign powers, to obtain their recognisance of his right of eventual succession to the Crown of England. They possess considerable interest, and have, with some few exceptions,\* been included in the present volume.

The Balfour MSS. were purchased in 1698 by the Faculty for L.150 sterling, no inconsiderable sum in those days. Amongst these are several volumes of Memorials and Letters of State, during the reign of King James, chiefly after his accession to the Crown of England; and it is from them principally that a selection has been made, of such papers as it was thought would throw light upon the civil and political history of Scotland during that period.

A small portion of their contents had previously been made public by Lord Hailes, in a small volume, entitled "Memorials and Letters relating to the History of Britain in the Reign of

\* These having been included in the *Analecta Scotica* (2 vols. 8vo, Edin. 1836-1837), it was not deemed advisable to reprint them here.

.



James the First.”\* His Lordship, adverting in his preface to the Editors of Collections of the present description, remarks that they “are generally considered as dull tasteless men, who seek no farther merit in a paper than that of being old or scarcely legible: they have, however, their pretensions to literary fame; and, indeed, those pretensions are so moderate, that it is hard to reject them altogether.

“To invention, to accuracy of composition, or elegance of style, they can offer no claim; they are not historians, they only prepare materials for history; they chuse out blocks from the quarry, and having, with much patience and toil, brought them above ground, they leave them there to be polished and arranged by more able artists.”

From a claim so modestly preferred it would be unjust to dissent, and the Editor ventures to believe, that as he seeks no higher praise than what is asked by the estimable and learned Judge, his demands will not savour of pretension. He is hopeful that much curious and valuable information has been collected together as to the state of Scotland at the beginning of the seventeenth century, and he thinks that the Monarch who then swayed the sceptre, throughout the whole of the correspondence in this volume,† displays more talent and good sense than is usually ascribed to him. Indeed, we suspect that the character of the “sapient” Monarch has not been generally un-

\* Glasgow. Foulis, 1766. Small 8vo.

† The Melros Papers, which have been wholly taken from the Balfour MSS., afford still stronger proofs of his Majesty's vigorous intellect and sound discretion.

derstood, or appreciated by the historians of his reign, and that, in place of exercising a sound judgment, they have, whilst emptying their vials of wrath upon him, too frequently been influenced by political predilections.

One very important fact seems to have been almost entirely overlooked, that when James first assumed the reins of government he found the kingdom in a semi-barbarous state, and that he left it in a state of comparative civilization. There is a remarkable letter, addressed by Lord Binning to his Majesty,\* containing a report of the substance of a speech made by him in the Scottish Parliament, in which, after making every allowance for the usual courtly flattery, enough remains to show the inestimable benefits conferred by James upon his country. He says—"Omitting to particularize the generall benefites done to oure people in England and Ireland, I schew that the blessingis of justice and peace, and fruittis arysing thair of, did so obleis euerie one of ws, as no thing in oure power could equall it; desyring that it might be remembered, that whairas the Ilanders oppressed the Hielandmen, the Hielanders tyrannised ouer thair Lawland nighbours; the powerfull and violent in the in-cuntrie domineered ouer the lyues and goodes of thair weak nighbours; the Bordourars triumphed in the impunitie of thair violences to the portes of Edinburgh; that treasons, murthours, burningis, thiftis, reiffis, hearschippis, hoching of oxin, breaking of milnes, destroying

\* 7th March 1617. Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 270.

of growand cornis, and barbarities of all sortes, wer exerced in all pairtes of the cuntrie, no place nor person being exemed or inviolable, Edinburgh being the ordinarie place of butcherlie reuenge, and daylie fightis; the paroche churches and churche-yairds being more frequented vpon the Sounday for aduantages of nighbourlie malice and mischeif nor for Godis seruice; nobilmen, barons, gentlemen, and people of all sortes, being slaughtered, as it wer, in publict and vncontrollable hostilities; merchandes robbed, and left for dead in daylight, going to thair mercats and faires of Montrois, Wigton, and Berwick; ministers being durked in Stirling, buried quick in Cliddisdail, and murthoured in Galloway; merchandis of Edinburgh being waited in thair passage to Leith to be maid prisoners and ransomed; and all vther abominations, which settled be inveterat custume and impunitie, appeired to be of desperat remeid, had bene so repressed, puneissed, and aboleissed be your maiesties wisdom, caire, power, and expensis, as no nation in earth could now compaire with our prosperities; whairby we wer bund to retribute to your maiestie, if it wer the verie half of our hairt bloud."

This is a fearful, but we believe a true picture of the state of Scotland at the commencement of the reign of James VI. In its most important essentials it is corroborated by contemporary writers; and surely a Monarch who, in the course of a few years, could, by his energy and perseverance, put down anarchy and restore order, deserves something better from pos-

terity than the appellations of a *roi-faineant*, an empty pedant, or arbitrary tyrant. James had acquired wisdom in the school of adversity, and early in life had learned the absolute necessity of curbing the power of an unprincipled nobility, in whose hands he was held merely as a puppet. This object he steadily pursued, and ultimately effected; for it is worthy of remembrance, that when he quitted the land of his birth for the sister kingdom, he left behind him no powerful family whose influence and intrigues might disturb the peace and prosperity of the commonwealth.\* His adroitness, too, in the measures he adopted to ensure the support of foreign powers, in the event of the succession to the Crown of England opening to him, evinces great foresight and wisdom; indeed, so anxious was he to secure the co-operation of every one that by possibility might be able to assist him in the objects he had in view, that even the petty Italian Princes were conciliated, and trustworthy persons privately sent to propitiate them.† Nor is it the least remarkable feature in the matter, that these multifarious negotiations were carefully concealed from the knowledge of the vigilant and jealous Elizabeth.

James has been sneered at by his enemies for his theological acquirements, which are admitted at all hands to have been con-

\* Whatever may have been the real truth of what is commonly denominated the Gowry Conspiracy, there can be little doubt that James was not sorry that an opportunity had occurred by which a family so powerful for wealth, influence, and talent, could be put down.

† It was these secret and mysterious negotiations with Catholic potentates, that gave rise to the notion of the King's inclination for Popery. The Editor has elsewhere observed, that James was too fond of power himself to think of parting with any portion of it to the Pope.

siderable ; but his knowledge of the principles and practice of laws in general, and especially of those in Scotland, is not so generally known. There is, however, an existing memorial of his extraordinary legal ability in the award pronounced by him upon the mutual claims of the heir-male and the bastard son of the last Lord, to the Barony of Sanquhar.\* In this case there was a diversity of opinion, and of four of the first lawyers in Scotland, two were on one side, and two on another. His Majesty, who liked nothing better than settling a disputed point, undertook the final arbitrement of the cause; and the result of his deliberations may be found in an argument which, for soundness, learning, and eloquence, will not easily be matched.

We trust our readers will forgive us for these hasty observations in favour of a Prince whom it has been very much the fashion to run down and ridicule ; and we shall conclude them by observing, that although we do not pretend to justify all his measures, or to assert that his character was free from blemish, still it is our conscientious belief that justice has not been done to him in regard to his Scottish administration, which was generally wise, salutary, and efficient.†

The Melros Papers, presented to the Club by the President, and the present volume, contain by far the greater part of the

\* See Abbotsford Miscellany, vol. i.

† D'Israeli, the author of the amusing "Curiosities of Literature," has vindicated the English government of his Majesty, and we think successfully, in "An Enquiry into the Literary and Political Character of James the First." London, 1816. Crown 8vo. As usually happens in vindications, the author is carried away by his subject ; but still, in the main, he is evidently right.

more important portion of the Balfour MS. relative to the time of James the First. But there still remains in manuscript what must be considered a most valuable addition to our memorials of the time,—the correspondence of Archbishop Spottiswood, the Church Historian, and of other eminent churchmen ;—these documents, which relate much more to the civil than to the ecclesiastical history of Scotland, would supply many deficiencies, and form a most suitable sequel to the preceding Collections.

The reader will doubtlessly be struck by the sycophantish manner and abject style in which the Sovereign is uniformly addressed, nor will he overlook the profusion of idle protestation and laudatory expression in which most of the writers indulge in their correspondence ; but he must not infer from this any unusual or uncalled for subserviency. It was the custom of the time ; and if he has the curiosity to look into the “ Academy of Complements,”\* the text-book of the courtiers of the seventeenth century, he will find most of the “ Superscriptions” and “ Subscriptions,” as they are termed, that occur in the present volume. Thus, the “ superscription” to the King is, “ To the most Sacred, most Gracious, most High, most Mighty, most Puissant, and Victorious Monarch, his Majesty of Great Brittain.”—To a Pa-

\* See “ The Academy of Complements, wherein ladies, gentlewomen, schollers, and strangers, may accomodate their courtly practice with gentile ceremonies, complementall amorous high expressions, and form of speaking or writing letters most in fashion. A worke perused, exactly perfected, every where corrected, and enriched by the author with additions of witty poems and pleasant songs.” 7th Edition. London, 1646. 12mo.

tron, “To the onely hope of his fortunes;” the “subscription” being, “the honourer of your matchlesse perfections.” When addressing “his beloved friend,” he subscribes “your assured;” —“the lovingst of all my friends,” —“yours inseperably,” —“his highly esteemed friend,” —“yours as I have professed.” It is unnecessary to multiply instances; but those above noticed demonstrate that there was nothing unusual in the manner in which the various letters contained in this volume were either “superscribed” or “subscribed.”

The Editor regrets that two or three mistakes in the Notes, entirely of a clerical description, escaped notice while correcting the sheets for press.\* A very interesting letter, relative to the suppression of the Clangregor, which was subsequently discovered, has, instead of being placed at the end of the book, been added as an Appendix to the present desultory observations.

J. M.

10, FORRES STREET,  
1st May 1838.

\* Subsequent for subsequently, p. 67, &c. &c.

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THE Selection of Papers contained in this volume will, I trust, be considered a valuable addition to the Collections already published, relative to the same period of Scottish History. I cannot, however, present them to the Abbotsford Club without expressing the obligations which I owe to Mr Maidment, for his very able and ready assistance in the selection and arrangement of them. He has undertaken the whole editorial labour, and has furnished the Prefatory Notice, and the many curious and interesting notes relating to the individuals and events referred to in these Papers: and I feel assured that the Club will unite with me in appreciating his great zeal and research in the preparation of the present volume for publication.

ADAM ANDERSON.

EDINBURGH,  
1st May 1838.



THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE AND THE LORD REGISTER  
TO KING JAMES VI.  
SEPTEMBER 18, 1612.

PLEIS 3OUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

The Erle of Ergyle compeiring this day befor 3oure maiesties counsaill, he exhibite ellevin of that number of the Clangregor rest-ing vpoun him be his formair accompt, who hes changeit thair names, and found caution, conforme to the ordoure. He hes a warrand grantit to him for his repair towards 3our maiestie, according to 3oure maiesties plefour and directioun, fygnefeit vnto ws by 3oure maiesties lettre of the fecond of this instant, and he hes nominat the Laird of Lundy, his bruther,\* to haue a cair of the profequotion of that seruice till his returne,

\* In a note of the Privy Council Proceedings in the same volume containing this letter, it is stated, "The Laird of Lundie, brother to the Earl of Argyle, being to repair to Court to confer with his brother anent the service of the Clangregour, as he pretendes, he hes nominat the Laird of Laweris to haue the charge of that seruice till his return, and vpoun Laweris acceptatioun of the charge, Lundie is to haue a license for his vpcumioig."

There is a Minute of the Council Meetings, dated 8th July 1613, from which it appears, that the Earl of Argyle appeared and freely offered to the King L.22, 10s. out of every hundred pounds of the fines exacted from those who had received any of the Clangregour which should come into his hands. It is also stated, "The landislordis of the Clangregour who should have taine the bairnis of the Clangregour off the Laird of Laweris hands," had "failzieid in that poynt, and thairfore charges are directed againes thame for payment to Lawers of the sowme of tuentie mark out of euerye merk land pertening to thame, and formerly possesst by the Clangregour."

Latterly, (30th November 1613,) it was resolved, that the landlords should not be called upon to pay any contribution, provided they took the Clangregour bairns. This proposal those present agreed to; and the conditions ultimately adjusted were, that the children should be distributed amongst them according "to the proportion of their lauds,"—that they should be bound to keep them, and to make them furthcoming when called for, until they were eighteen years of age, when they should be exhibited to the Privy Council, and their subsequent fate decided upon. If any of these unfortunate creatures should escape from his

who hes vndertane the charge, with promiffis to do his indevoir to bring the fame to fome fetled perfectioun. We haif had findrie conferenceis anent the bairnis of the Clangregour, and hes consultit and advifit heirvpoun with the landiflordis, whose aduife and opinioun is, that that ftring fall not be tuitcheit, nor no motioun maid thereof, quhill the feruice in handis agains the men be firft fetled and brought to ane end; at whiche tyme the executioun of everie futch eourfe as falbe then refolued vpoun againis the bairnis may with the leffe difficultie be effectuat. This is all that hes bene done with him at this meiting. So, with our hairty prayeris vnto God, recommending zoure maieftie to Godis devyne protectioun, we [reft]

Your Maiefties moft humble and obedient  
fubiectis and feruitouris,

AL. CANCELLARIUS.  
ALEX<sup>R</sup>. HAY.

Edinburgh, 18 Sep. 1612.

To the King his moft Sacred and  
Excellent Maieftie.

keeper, the resetter to be bound to relieve the landlord of all "pane and danger" he might incur through his flight; and moreover, to be liable to such "arbitrall censure and punishment," as the Council should think fit to inflict. The child so escaping, if under fourteen, to be scourged and burnt on the cheek for the first escape, and hanged for the second:—if above fourteen, to be hanged at once without further ceremony.

The next day a roll was made up and sworn to by Glenurquhy and the other lairds. The landlords were enjoined to keep and present the children under the penalty of two hundred pounds Scots for the child of a chieftain; one hundred pounds for the child of an under chieftain; and forty pounds for children of meaner rank.

# LETTERS AND STATE PAPERS

ILLUSTRATIVE OF

## THE REIGN OF JAMES VI.

I.—SIR NICHOLAS BACON, LORD-KEEPER, TO QUEEN ELIZABETH.\*

MY MOSTE GRACIOUS SOVERAIGNE,

I with all humblenes praye pardon of your maiestie, that I pre-fume by letter to do that which bounden duety and service requireth to be done in perfon. O good madam, not wante of a willing harte and mynde, but a vnhabable and vnweldy body, is the onely cause of this ; and yet the body, such as it is, every day and hower, is, and ever shalbe, redy at your maiesties commandement, and so shoulde they be, yf I had a thowfand as good as any man hath, my allegeaunce and a number of benefitts hath so foundery tymes bounde me.

The causes that make me nowe to write to your maiestie be the dangerous and perilous tymes that hath continued longe, and do nowe, in my judgement, daylie greatly encrease ; for as the two mightie and potent princes, your neighbours, and surely your inwarde enemies, were the

\* This letter, from the father of Lord Bacon to Queen Elizabeth, has been preserved by Sir James Balfour, and was probably written not long previous to the death of Sir Nicholas, perhaps in the September preceding. It is a singularly curious and valuable historical document.

leffe to be doubted as longe as they had their handis full at home, so doubteles they prevaile againſte thoſe that kepte them occupied, which, as I vnderſtand, they greatly do, the perillis and dangers to your maieſties ſtate haften and growe on as greatly. Their willis are redy, onely theis lettis differreth their oportunitie. Nowe, thoſe being taken awaye, with what coniunct force and fury they will execute their will, full of enmytie and revenge, is eaſy to be iudged: for ſeing your maieſtie hath had evidente prouffe of their ill diſpoſiciouns towardis you by their practiſes, and that in waightie matters, in the mydeſt of their troubles, when they were not able to do you any hurte, what then is to be loked for when oportunitie and habilitie ſhall concurre? Agayne, it is to be doubted that when they ſhall begynne to ſtirre coles, that there be many, booth at home and abroade, that will put oyle to this fyer, and the rather becauſe of the gloriouſe and plaufible preteſte that they pretende to have, to ſerue their purpoſe.

Moſte gracious Soueraigne, I have been ſo vnquieted with thoſe thingis, when I entered into the conſideracion of them, whether of ower muche fearefulnes by nature, or ouer greate ieolofy of your highe eſtate, I knowe not, that I coulde not choſe but nowe at the laſte, to vtter to your maieſtie that which I have ofte intended, and yet neuer done, partely by feare, partely by hope, that thingis ſhoulde prove better, which I ſee daylie prove worſe and worſe; and yf remedy be not foreſeen in tyme, I doubt it will prove very harde to be holpen by any counſell: to myne vnderſtanding, and the beſte remedy that I can thinke of, be theis, nevertheles ſubmytting them with all humblenes to your maieſties moſte grave and wiſe conſideracioun.

The firſte remedy is to make Scotland as affured to your maieſtie as maye be, for ſo befydis the ayde you maye have by them, the greate perill of annoyaunce by Fraunce wilbe remoued; and the better to vnderſtand what is beſte to be foreſeen and provided for both their and your fuertie, me thinketh it beſt that ſome wiſe men were ſente to conferre with the Regent and his adherentis, by your maieſtie, and that ſuche counſell ſhalbe agreed vpon in that conference be ſente to your highnes to be conſidered of, and by you allowed or amended. Ther reſteth nothing

but to have it carefully executed ; and in the handling of this, greate care woulde be taken that the younge king, who groweth nowe to yeres, be not transported, but maye remayne in the governaunce of fuche, as shalbe moste assured to your maiestie ; and for the better bringing this to passe, I moste humblie beseeche your highnes, that fuche and so many pentions maye be graunted, as maye beste bring it to good effecte. Surely I thinke that euery thowfande poundis that shalbe thus bestowed will save you a hundred thowfand ; yet it maye be doubted, whether, yf this be vndone, any money wilbe able to beare of the danger.

As to the seconde remedy, because the annoyaunce from Spayne is like to growe by the Lowe Countries, I see no waye so sure for your maiestie as to kepe the Prince of Orenge in harte and life ; for methinketh his estate towardis Spayne, and the Regentis towardis Fraunce, stand both in one predycament, and therefore require booth one cownseile. The Statis of the Lowe Countries are so divided, that howe truste may be reposed in them where one trusteth not another, I see not. marry, yf it mighte be broughte to passe, by counsaile from hence, that the Duke of Arescott and the States mighte governe the Countreis according to their liberties, and the Prince to have the rule of their martiall matters, this of alle others were the surest waye ; otherwise, whilest the States be in delyberacion, it maye be doubted that their overthrowe maye happen.

The thirde remedie is to have your musters kepte and contynewed, and their certificatis carefully perused and wantis supplied, so as your cap-taynes, men, municion, and armour, maye be in a redynes againste all fouldiouris and fo[reigners ?]

Thus, I have troubled your maiestie, I confesse, longer then perchaunce it nedeth, confidering cheefely your owne vnderstanding and wisedome, and therewith the grave, wise, and carefull counsaylouris daylie attendaunte abowte you. But, good madam, howe can theis thingis dischargd me of my duetye, judging of theis tymes as I do ? And although I have before this tyme signified to some of my Lords, what I have thoughte in your matters of state, yet feing nowe the daunger encreasing, I coulde not satisfie my owne harte withoute an advertisment to your selfe, moste humbly prayeing pardon for the lengthe of my letter, my shaking hande being

fo ill; and the rather becaufe I meane not to trouble your maieftie ofte withoute your maiefties licence and good favour. Thus wifhing to your highnes all felicitie both of mynde and body, I forbeare any farther to trouble your maieftie at this tyme. From Gorehambury, the xvth of September.

Your Maiefties moſte humble ſubiecte  
and ſervaunte,

NICHOLAS BACON.\*

To the Queenis moſte excellent Maieftie,  
my moſte gracious Sovereigne.

II.—MONSIEUR LE COMTE DE NASSAU AU ROY D'ESCOSSE.†

Oct. 6, 1588.

SIRE,

Dautant que voſtre maieſte fera affez informee, tant par ce porteur, comme par ce que meſſieurs les Eſtats de ces pays luy eſcriuent, de ce qui concerne le batteau appelle le Phenix et les priſonniers dedans icelluy, ie me remettray a la relation du dict porteur et du contenu des dictes lectres. Priant a voſtre maieſte treſhumblement de vouloir croire que non feullement en ce qui peult toucher ledict affaire, mais en toutes aultres occurrences ou il plaira a voſtre maieſte m'honnorer de ſes com-

\* Sir Nicholas Bacon, Lord-Keeper of the Great Seal. He was descended of an ancient family in Suffolk, and born about the year 1510. He was a zealous Protestant, and extremely jealous of the ſucceſſion of the Queen of Scots. Suspected of being concerned in a tract, oſtenſibly written by Mr John Hales, Clerk of the Hanaper, in ſupport of the title of the Houſe of Suffolk to the Engliſh throne, he fell under the diſpleaſure of Queen Elizabeth, who, in November 1564, reſtrained him from access to court, and intermeddling in any other buſineſſ than that of chancery. He was preſerved in his poſt of Lord-Keeper by the intereſt of Secretary Cecil, and retained that office till his demise, at his houſe near Charing-Croſſ, called York Place, on the 20th of February 1578-9. He was interred on the 9th day of March following, in the cathedral of St Paul's, where a monument was erected for him, which was deſtroyed by the fire of London in September 1666.

† Balcarras Papers.

mandemens, je ne faudray de m'employer, selon mon petit pouvoir et credit que je puis auoir en ces pays. Et sur ce, aprez avoir baife les mains treshumblement a vostre maieste je prieray Dieu le maintenir,

Sire, en sa fainte garde et protection. De la Haye, ce vj Oôtobre 1588.

De vostre Maieste tres humble seruiteur,

MAURICE DE NASSAU.\*

Au Roy d'Escoffe.

*Indorsed:*

" 6 Oôtab. 1588. Duik Moreis to  
the King of Scotland."

### III.—JACQUES VI. A MONSIEUR LE COMTE DE NASSAU.

SEPT. 19, 1592.

MONSIEUR MON COUSIN,

Ce gentilhomme porteur de cettcey,† estant des sa ieuneſſe nourry en ma compaignie, a maintenant resolu voir le monde, et se rendre plus

\* He was usually termed Count of Nassau, until, by the death of his elder brother, Philip William, he became Prince of Orange. He was one of the greatest men of his age, whether considered as a warrior or a statesman. The chief blot upon his character was his ungrateful and cruel treatment of John of Oldenbarneveldt, whose inflexible honesty, and love of his country, formed a formidable obstacle to the Prince's ambitious views. Barneveldt was a patriot in the proper sense of the word, and unlike many persons pretending to the appellation in modern times, was ready to sacrifice every private advantage for the public good. This illustrious man fell a victim to his virtues, and suffered death at an advanced age. He was condemned 12th May 1619, and executed in the court of the castle at the Hague, where the scaffold was raised opposite the window of the Prince, who " beheld this execution from his window by the help of a prospective; upon which some people made their reflections."—*Lives of the Princes of Orange*, translated from the French of Baron Maurier, by Mr Thomas Brown. London, 1693. 8vo. p. 170.

† This was probably " Jacobus Balfourius a Pitcullo, liber Baro, Cubicularius noster intimus, et a prima adolescentia, apud nos educatus, nationes exteris inuisere constituens," &c. and who is so described by James VI. in a Latin letter addressed to Philip II. (but apparently never delivered), dated at the palace of Dalkeith, in the month of September 1592. As the descriptions of Balfour,

capable a me faire seruice digne de son rang. Son intention donques honneste et louable merite que ie le recommande a bon escient a mes plus affectionés amis, tant pour les vertus que ie cognois en luy, que pour son fidelle seruice qu'il ma fait, estant gentilhomme de ma chambre. Je vous prie partant le vouloir fauorir de vostre courtoisie, pour l'amour de moy, si dauanture il ait occasion de faire seiour es Prouinces Unies, ou, bien fil ait a passer par vos quartiers. Vous asseurant que vous my faires plaisir, dont ie men reuencheray a l'endroit de ceux quil vous plaira me recommander. Et en cest endroit ie prieray l'Eternel,

Monfieur mon coufin, quil vous ait tousiours en sa faincte et digne garde. De mon Chasteau de Dalketh, ce 19 de Septembre 1592.

Vostre bien affectionné Coufin,

JAKUES R.

A Monfieur mon Coufin, Monfieur  
le Conte de Nassau, Grand Ad-  
miral de Prouinces Unies.\*

#### IV.—KING JAMES VI. TO QUEEN ELIZABETH.

APRIL 13, 1594.

RIGHT HEIGH, RIGHT EXCELLENT, AND MIGHTIE PRINCESSE,

Or darrest sifter and couffin, In our maist heartie maner, we recomend vs vnto you, hauing so guid occasion offred of employment of

and the causes of his visiting foreign parts, so completely agree in both letters—as the period is the same, and as they are both dated from the same place, it is not improbable that the Baron of Pitcullo was the individual introduced to the notice of Prince Maurice. This person afterwards became an Irish Peer by the title of Lord Balfour of Clonawley in the county of Fermanagh, and if we may credit Spottiswood, Bishop of Clogher, in after life, sorely belied the character given him by his royal master. See “*Briefe Memorial of the Lyfe and Death of Doctor James Spottiswood*,” from a MS. in the Auchinleck Library. Edinburgh, 1811. 4to.

\* Balcarras Papers.



some from vs to deliuer unto you a defyre quhilk ue dout not fal be to your goude lyking and contentment, ue haue made choyfe of our trustie and weilbelouitis James Coluill of Easter Vymes,\* and Mr Eduard Bruce, Commendator of Kinlosse,† amplie instructed lykuayes in all such maters, as ue haue thought conuenient be them to communicat to you, quhilk tuoching ws so neir in our honor and vther wayes, ue looke assuredlie that deue respect and confideration being had, we fall at lenth receaue such full satisfactioun as in reffoun we may rest contented ; hauing therewithall giuen them in charge, to assure you of the performance of such poynts as ues delt in be the Lord Zouche, your lait Embasadour with us, according to our anfuers returned be him ; so the particulars remitted to ther faithfull deliuerie, quhome it may pleis you crydit firmlie as our selve. Efter our most earnist vifs of God for the continuance of your lang and prosperous range, we leaue you, right heicht, right excellent and mightie Princeffe, to his bleffed and holy protectioun. Edinbrugh, the xiiij of Aprile 1594.‡

JAMES R.

V.—KING JAMES VI. TO THE EARL OF ESSEX.

RIGHT TRUSTIE AND WELLBELOUIT COUSIN,

Allthoch I haue this long tyme forborne the vretting unto you, because of the urong ye receauid their throuch, suppoise not in my default, but in the default of thaim that uaire emploied betuixt us, yett nou, hauing directit thir tuo gentelmen,§ ambaffadouris to the Quene youre fouueraine, vpon uechtie and urgent occasions, importing no leffe

\* Sir James Colville of Easter Wemys was created Lord Colville of Culross, 25th April 1604.

† Afterwards created Lord Kinloss. He died in 1610, aged 62.

‡ Balfour MSS.

§ James Colville of Easter Wemys and Edward Bruce.

then the preferuation or breake of the amitie fo long and happilie continueid betuixt the tuo crounis, I uolde not omitt this occasion in fending these few lynis unto you, heirby to praye you fauourable to heare, and according to the freindshipp I looke for at youre hande, to further thame als farr as in you lyis to a goode and speedie dispathe. I looke, milorde, that a nobleman of the ranke ye are of, uill moue and affist the Quene with youre good aduyce, not to fuffer herself to be fyled and abused any longer with fuche as præferre thair particulaire and unhoneft affections to the Quenis princelie honoure and peax of both the realmes; but I referr the particulairs of all to the beararis report, quhome I haue comandit to use youre aduyce in all thaire proceedings: And thus, richt trustie and uellbelouit coufin, I bidd you hairtelie fairuell. From Edinburgh the xij of Apryle 1594.

Your uerie louing freinde,

JAMES R.\*

To our richt trustye and well belouit  
Coufin, the Earle of Effex.

VI.—SIR WILLIAM KEITH TO JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 4, 1596.

PLEASE YOUR MAIESTY,

I cam to this toun of Venice the xiii of Deffember, ftillo novo, quhar, aftir fom few dayis, I had the neius of the hell hes bein on the

\* From his Majesty's Autograph. Balfour MSS. In Birch's Memoirs of Queen Elizabeth, this letter has been printed "from a copy among the MS. Collections of Dr Patrick Forbes, in the possession of the Honourable Philip Yorke, Esq.;" and it is observed, "what answer the earl return'd to the king does not appear." It would rather seem never to have been delivered, but to have been brought back by the ambassadors, which may account for the original being found amongst the Balfour MSS. Sir James has written upon a copy which he had made of it, "This letter, befor it wes deliuerit to the Earle of Essex he wes execut, and so it wes never deliuerit." A most absurd reason for its non-delivery, as Essex did not suffer till the 25th February 1601.

counfall of ten thir thri zeirs bygen, and cauft my brother be him felf fpeik tham all feverally, as having vord from ane Skots gentilman : Bot to be fchort in this, fir, thair vald nain of tham do fo meikill as fpeir his nem, and denyit the knowlage of any mairi [mair?] : he lernit that thair vas ane deid and ane other remaining imbafter at Roim, that had fom faffons vith ftrangers. Sva, finding that the Devk of Venice at that tyme\* is nov deid ; and as I trov the other fennatour gif any vas (3a, albeit he var leifing, thay of ten ar fchengeitt everi fax monethe) fva I focht quher I nicht quyatly be aquent vith the principall fecritter, quhilk vithe dificolti I obtained, in refpect thay remaine in office all thair lyf, and is not thair faffon to fpeik vith any bot poblikly ; zit he did fo meikill, as I vas brocht in be ane quyat paffage, quhair the Dewk vas vithe the nomber of Saxtein, to vit the Ten and Sax is callid propirlie the heids of the reft ; and becaus I vas to begin of nev, and had nothing to fheav, bot 3our maiefties inftrouctions quhilk I vald not, I thought gud to fill ane of the blanks 3our maieftie fent vith me, vithe fom gennerall vords of office to the Deuk and Sennat vithe credit be 3our hines onto my felf : I and my brother being cecritters, alway it pleift them verrie veill, and vald hav honorrit me for 3our maiefties faik as ane imbafter, bot I fheu tham I vas not, bot for fecrit handling of 3our maiefties affairs, vas com to maik my errand for lerning of the langage and other vertevs, as the faffon of ftraingers vas : alway they left not of in gret revarrenceing 3our maieftie ; bot quhan I begane and tald them quhow that ane 3ong Skots gentillman called Balendin brocht fik a meffage onto 3our maieftie, and fva forthe as 3our hines direckit me, the Devk and all the counfall mifkenid it clein, and villit me to fpeik quhat els, bot I held me fva lang at this point as reffon and difcreffion vald. At laft I faid in 3our maiefties nem, I vas to gif anfuair to thair firft propofficion, quhilk vas 3our hines thankitt tham of thair gudvill, and cowlde be content to be in frainchap vith tham. The Devk anfvarrit and faid it vas verri veill, bot vald I fay any

\* The Doge Pascal Cicogna. He died in 1595, and was fucceeded by Marino Grimani, who enjoyed the Ducal honours till his decease, 26th December 1605. His fuccessor was Leonardo Donato.

forder? The quhilk I thocht not gud to do till I had anfvare in that, and deffyr of the Deuk and Counfall to haw itt: Being convoyit veri quyatly away, I vas fend for againe vithin ten dayis, quhar, being com, the Devk faife, that for anfvair thay var meft villing to be in freinschap vith your maieftie, and zit focht giff I vald fay any mair? Nov, I had lerned befor that it vas not meiteft to speik derekly of the Kyng of Spain, bot I faid inkece your maieftie var troblit in your avin contra, or after the Quein of Inglands diffece, be any domestik or forrene nacion in feiking of your richt, quhat vald be thair pairt, and quhow vald thay think of it? The Devks anfvare vas, that thay sovld advyffe and gif ane fik anfvair as God moift tham vithe all. Ovpon the morren I vas deffyr again, and cavft fit down amongs tham quhither I vald or not, and put on my hat. The Dewk begovd and faid, ve hav advyft to gif your King ane anfvair, quhilk ve beleife fall content him, and that ze may remember the bettir on it, ze fall heir it red, ains, tvys, or thryfe, quhilk vas doin. Afir the Devk faid, ve ar veri veill content of your fecritt form vith ovffe, and vill deffyr you fet down the fobftance of this vret onto his hines your maiftir, and quhat forder, he vill bid you fay in his maiefties nem, now or heir-afir, it fall be meft luifingly harde and anfvairit. Thir speichis var delyverrit vithe ane veri graciouse countenance; zit, I thocht ains to hav faid that all vas veill genarral I hard; bot, fir, vith your maiefties pardoun, I fand it meiter to vret thir lynis to be advyffit vithall, and to fend the verrie vords, fo neir as I can, that vas red onto me, faive only ane thay fet down to my advantage, quhilk I think fchem to let be fein, fence all the praife, honour, and veilfair, belongithe to your maieftie, quha never derekit me zit, I thank God and your hines, bot your graces errands zeid reffonable veill, as I houp this fall. Sua, fir, the tyme being propir in refpect of the Kyng of Spains interpryfe apeirandli again England, gif your maieftie pleife, ze may taik onto you fik feu number of your counfall as ze think gud, and refolffe quhat fardar your maieftie vill deill vith this meft vyffe and luifing Repoblik, for quhat your hines vill feik of tham vith reffon, I beleife to obtain it onto your maieftie, letting me be authorreift be your maiefties lettirs to the Devk and Sennat all in ane,

and fom blanks with 3our maiesties gret signet and court signet, to cloffe them and fill tham as I find occafion.\*

Now, fir, being quhar papiftri is, I can not vant fom of the dreggis. 3our maieftie hes hard quhat the freirs dois, quhan thay hav pritcht all the day; bot in gud faithe, fir, I fould never maik this preitching for my felf, gif I could othervaise do. I brocht not faife hundrithe kroons with me, and my brother baithe, ovt of Londen, as nain knovs bettir nor 3our maiefties trew poir fervant, Thomas Fovles: and, fir, my staying still in Venice on this errand this tva monethe hes bein no fmall maittir onto my poffe; bot, fir, I haiv caws to think it mair nor veill beftowit for many reffons, and I hoip in God to do 3our maieftie gud and fecrit service heir; only the difpatche 3our hines fends, baithe for 3our fervice and my help, let it be foine and fecritt; for I beleife, and can lerin heir nothing els, but that the Spainzairds falbe in Ingland, or els ewill douing, be the tym I dow heir from 3our maieftie. But albeit, fpair not to fend me vord, for I beleife to do 3our hines lytill var service gif thay var landit in Ingland, nor quhar thay ar preffently. This flet luifs tham not, and fua pre-pairs be fi, inkece thay mein for them, albeit in the mein tyme thay ar in fair terms. If it may pleife 3our hines to communicat of this onto Thomas Fovls, I, vithe 3our majefties lyffance, vill anfvair for his fecreff; and he is verie meit to delyver my lettirs onto 3our hines from tym to tym, and vithe ane vord of 3our hines (be him to James Hudfon) my hell lettirs vill com and gang verie faife. Bifiking 3our hines to pardon my baldnes and roid form in vretting fva langfomly, quhilk I vas conftanit to do, that 3our hines nicht heire my hell procidings, as I vald to God 3our maieftie knew my hairt, and vithe quhat deffyr I do 3our fervice, and

\* These negotiations with the Venetians are amusing enough. James seems to have taken every opportunity of endeavouring to get his right of succession to the crown of England recognised abroad, and so far as promises went, he seems to have been not very scrupulous. It was this laxity of principle, and his dealing with Catholic princes, that gave rise to the belief of his inclination to Popery. James was too fond of exclusive power himself to think of parting with any portion of it to the Pope. Episcopacy suited him much better where he was head of the church himself. In viewing his political arrangements generally, it is almost impossible not to agree with Lord Hailes, that whatever may have been "his character as a man, or his conduct as a monarch," his "judgment was sound, and his apprehension clear," especially where his own interests were concerned.

feiks the inkrefment of 3our maiefties grettnes, that ane day I affur my felf to fi ; onto the quhilk and ever, I pray God to blife 3our hines and all 3our proceedings. From Venice, the fourt of Fabrowair, ftilo novo, 1596.

Your Maiefties faithfull, humble, and  
moft obedient fervand,

ST. W. KEITH.\*

The gret gudvill and fauorable intencion that the kyngs maieftie of Skotland hes participattit vithe ovffe be 3our mediacioun.

The anvair quharof. It falbe onto ovffe moft deffyrrous and villing all the gud lovks of his maieftie inkreffing in gretnes. And ve fall not fell in ovr pairts for to fchav all favorable correſpondance, as his maieftie fall find in freindſchap and amittie to his hines being fo veill lykitt of be ovffe, acording to the intitutioun and form of this our Repoblik.

Sir, this is the verri fobſtance of that vas red onto me, albeit it vas amplifeit vithe many courtas vords in the Ittalliane, quhilk is not thair faſſon to gif copis of, nather hav thay any vret of me.†

To his Maiefti of Skotland.

\* Sir William Keith of Ludquhairn, ſon of Gilbert Keith, by Margaret, daughter of James Gordon of Lesmoir. He was knighted by James VI., and married Margaret, daughter of William Lord Keith, and ſiſter of George fifth Earl Marſchal, by whom he had a ſon, William, who was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia by Charles I., by patent to him and his heirs-male whatſoever, dated 28th July 1629.

† Balcarras Papers.

## VII.—SIR WILLIAM KEITH TO THOMAS FOULIS.

15TH AUGUST [1596] ?

MOST LUIFFING AND ASSURED FREIND,

I can not bot marwall, ze haue newer wrettin bot ane lettir, fence I fende zow myn, to be preffentit till owr deirest freind, quha I am foir hes not bein the cawffe off swa lang stay, the porpoffe importting fo meikill onto him, for tym is all in fik mairtchandeis, and may affur zow within thir twa monethes, ze nicht haue had fik ane blok as nein of any nation cowl'd hav the lyk off, mairtchands I mein, bot now the Inglife treid is so thocht off, as thair is no other talk bot off that, zet. mair nor the Spainis. I am adwarteist be Jams Hudfon to be war in my wairs bying, in respect thair is so many Inglife schaipis at se; bot he wretts fo obfkoirle, that it may be taikin twa wayis, and that he or any leiffing, bot zour ffreind and zowr selff, can ken off my mairtchandeis be my falt, it is nocht: zit wretts he mair that thair is fom lettir interseptit, wrettin be Scotts Jeffowitts, quharin my nem is mencionid, howping to work wonders at my poir hands, bot wretts not quhar the Jeffowitts ar, nor wha interseptts the lettir; bot, as I taik it, Ingland, quha I am affurit has bein ewer bettir informit off me, nor that I will hawe cheng in my releigion, and any thinge els bot my prievat excerfeiffes I mell not into, and for zowr bloks and freinds off yeir maittirs I howp not to be meikill invoyitt, and gif I wis any did, I fowld do mair nor I hawe doin, zit staying owpon zowr adwarteisment. Ze wret newer ane word news onto me, nor quhow our Sweithland maistir is, zit I haue bein demandit heir quhat news I haid from Scotland, and quhan I heird from it? Consider ze thein giff I haw cawffe to find falt with zour flewthful onkyndnes. Farder, fom of my aquentance speirrit giff his maiestie of Scotland heid fend any men and schaipis with this fleit off Ingland agains Spaine? I said I beleift nocht, nor wald nocht, onles the kyng off Spaine parfewid Ingland, at quhilk tym thay heir nicht parfchance knaw, that owr maistir's forfe was mair nor fom giffs owt. Thir ar ane wyfe peipill, and wil be leithe the kyng off Spaine

taiks thaim for enemies ; and thinks tham sober freinds that dislyks tham, swa zit quhat they ar and quhom thay luiff is knawin albeit nocht to many, and in fik fort as thay may deny it quhan thay will. Leiffing this porpose, that I wat not quhow I begane it, faue in finding fat with zowr onkyndnes, I man tell zow, that I am indet for zowr wairs ane thowfand crowns, and hes newer first nor laft had ane pennie from zow nor zowr freinds, quhom I wreit not, feing I med the blok with zow : mend this falt with speid, for ze know what it is for ane zung mairtchand to tyn his credit at fourft. And zit I haue doin for ane moneth in to com, and afurs my self the forfald som is be the way, knawing the honest mynd off zowr freind, I will not fay zowrsel : bot this far, giff ze twa do this zour dewty to me, for all is wrettin onto me, or can be doin in my contrair, I fall put faire wairs in zowr hands and zowr freind's, with God's graic. I fay this, wind and wader ferwing that all be not lost be the way or flewthe of tyme. Ze haue doin me ane ewill torrin, hes haldin me swa lang from feing the rest off this gairding off the wordle ; and langer nor the end of September I cannot stay : and giff word possiblei coms not from zow or them, I fall tak fik ordor with zour torns and my credit as I may, till my bak coming, quhilk, God willing, fall not be lang, gif the Pep maik me not cardinell, for my deep dewocion and fervic. Parhapis the Jeffwitts howpis to moife me and him ; thus thinking this sowsicant for ane man of zowr spreit, I praye zow commend my feirveice to tham I awcht, and to others as ze think gud ; bot let als few weit off my wretting onto zow, as ze can inteffipet. I am sweir to offir my fair hand wret to ewerrie ane, and my flowdis dyttment quhilk I recomend beithe ane and other as aratik. Gif it pleis God we meit, I fall gar zow trow of the quhilk, God I pray preferwe zow. From Padoua, the 15th of Agowft stilo novo.

Zowr mest constand and asurid  
freind to be employit,

SR. W. KEITHE.\*



I pray zow, taik gud tent that this zowr lettir be not openit be the way.

To my worthie luiffing freind Thomás  
Fowlls, borgefs in Edinburghe, and  
jewaller onto the King's Maieftie off  
Scotland.

[There was enclosed in this letter, on a flip of paper, the following additional communication to Mr Thomas Fowlis.]

Thair coms ane lettir amongs my other onto zowr brother, bot ken nothing to him new. Taik ane gud hairtt quhat ewer cawfe ze have, and I fall maik zow help heir, gif his maieftie fend me moyane to bye in tym, for that is all. And the King of Spains forces again Ingland, I feir, and ze heft nocht, foin falbe : bot I fall make his maieftie the gretter of it heir, for thay luif him not. I wald ze sawe my letter wrettin onto his maieftie, and ye man fi it, for neift God and the king I thank zow. Pance nocht on geir to do zow ewill, for ze knaw quhat cawfe I have, bot my cair is on God ; caft zow thair, and zowr honest form fall ewer confort zow. Heft word and my difcharge to me, bot I will not wret onto zow in this other gret pakket, becaufe thay ar beithe off ane dett, and this tikett I wrot that thir lettirs fall not beir bowk ; ze man be chamles at his maiefties hands for fikreife onto me ; fence it is his weil mair nor myn in the end, and I may fay, I have doin his hines ferweifs, and my lying heir hes bein no fmall maittir onto me, and maiking moyan for this torrin. Fell not to fchew his maieftie that the Italliane he was fo gud onto, at my deffys, is heir, and werrie gret with the gret Dewk of Florence, and offers to cawfe the dewk fend for me. His majeftie kens he is the Kyng of Spanis onfriend quyatlie, and luifs our kyng. Gif his hines will, I fall fpeik him, and giff him fom words of offere on my awin heid, bot not from his hines, till he fend me word in this ; for in my oppinion his maieftie fall have neid off freinds and money both, or he get Ingland, and this dewk hes bethe, and is in lig with this repoblick, at left in gret amittie. I cloffe his maiefties lettir, fwa that giff he taik not ane knyff

and cott it owt, it will ryff; likewais I have cloiffit it roidlei, that it be not brokin owt or kend, sua exquisse my roidnes lowrd falt\* in this, and rid this other fyd weil. I am affraid for James Hudfon, thairfor taik gud tent in the opining the lettirs.

VIII.—EARL OF ERROL TO KING JAMES VI.

IT MAY PLEASS 3OUR MAIESTIE,

That althocht it has pleasit God fa to dispoifs of my effaris, as that since I professit the Catholik religioune, I haif remanit for the maift pairt in gryt trwbles, bot maift speciallie thir thrie or four zeris laft by-gane, in extrem and daylie danger of my lyf, besyd all my vther irrecorable loiffis: Zit being assuredly persuadit in my self, that 3our maiestie hes sufficiently confiderit (and that according to the treuth, as God is my vitnefs), that thir my lait and gryttaft extremeties haif procedit onlie vpon that ouer gryt feruor and onnecessar rigor of the ministrie (qua, disdainfullie reiecting all reasonable conditiouns, will force mennis consciencis, nocht as zit persuadit, till imbrace thair opiniouns in matteris of religioune), and nocht of any intentioun in me till offend against 3our hienefs perfoune or estait. I am, thairfoir, the mair bauld heirby till regrait and lament my hard estait, as I haif euer doone be sic midfes as I mycht vntoe 3our maiestie, quhairin as it pleafours God till permit my fortune daylie till becum mair frauart, fa I hoip to find 3our hienefs the mair gracious and freindlie. My hardest hap and gryttest greif, as God knauis, hes euer bein that being debarrit of 3our maiesties presence, till maik my awin pairt guid and knawin to 3our hienes, all my sincer and vprycht intentiouns haif bein sinistrouslie exponit and forcit till actiouns for defence of my awin lyf and estait, in opin shame on my pairt, offensiu to 3our maiestie, God being my judg, and my conscience bering me record, that it neuer enterit in my mynd, famekle as to be of thocht, willinglie till offend 3our hienefs; and I hop my behaiour in this, my hard

\* Awkward or clumsy mistake. O. Fr. *lourde faute*.

banishment, quhairof your maiestie cannot be ignorant, hes giuin sufficient testimonie of my deutfull and sincer affectioun to your hienefs seruice, as he, quha, as he hes the honor to be sa neir of your maiesties blood, sa his gryttest desyr and contentment hes bein, and is, to spend his lyf for your hienefs, and the preferuatioun of his auin native cuntrie, without regaird of persouns or perrell quhatsumeuer, my deutie to God in my conscience onlie referuit; vther nor quhilk, your maiestie self and all Scotland knawis, I neuer did craif. And albeit my present misfortune fall, I dout nocht, gif gryt contentment and mair pouar to my ondeseruit enemies till seik my vtter rwin, zit my resolutione till returne in Scotland, being for the earnest desyr I haid (and that nocht without guid grund) to doe your maiestie seruice, as the end fall pruiſ in effect, I hop my attempt in that salbe the lesſe offense to your hienefs, althocht I haif nocht as zit that I knau of, obtenit your maiesties licence for my warrand; and thairfor, that I mycht returne the mair quietlie, and with lesſe suspitioun, I interpryſit this way, of mynd till haif passit be Holland, bot befor I could cum thair, being trappit be mair diligent ſerce nor I luikit for, I wes brocht heir, and at last, being tryit quha I ues, am nou detenit till your maiestie be aduertiffit and resolue hou to dispoſs of me :\* Quhairin I beſeik your hienefs to taik ſic order, as may beſt aggrie with your maiesties awin honor and my ſeurtie, vntil the tym I be brocht to quhat pairt of Scotland fall lyk your hienefs, quhair quheusoeuer it may please God I arryue, I am nocht to plead with your maiestie for my juſt defence (albeit I lak nocht guid argument), bot onlie till ſeu to your hienefs clemencie and fauor, for my ſaif-gaird againſt the violence and malice of my enemies, being maiſt aſſurit that bayth natur be blood, and princelie courag, fall taik mair place, and voork gryttar effectis in your hienefs hert, for my ſeurtie and preferuatioun, quhilk in end will zeild your maiestie gryttar honor and contentment, nor the ſatiffactioun of my

\* Lord Errol and the other Popish peers, Angus and Huntly, not finding themselves comfortable in foreign parts, resolved to return to Scotland, and used all means to reconcile themselves to the King and the Church. Errol, while passing through the Low Countries, was intercepted and delivered into the hands of Mr Robert Danielston, Conservator at Campvere. This letter appears to have been written to the King in consequence of this seizure. The Earl contrived, however, to escape, and shortly thereafter arrived safely in Scotland.

enemies, be my vrak (quha am alredie fa far vrakit) can breid 3our hienefs commoditie or pleaseur, specialle being to 3our maiestie that I am.

Nather fall I euer craif at God or 3our hienefs gryttar graice or fauor in this uarld, nor I carie and euer did a faythfull hert to 3our maiesties seruice, and a feruent desyr to spend my lyf for the fame, quherfoeuer guid occasioun haid bein or may be offerit. And thairwith cessing to virie 3our hienefs uith farthar purpofs heirin, bot committing my self and the cair of my hale estait to God and 3our maiesties guid confideratioun, and langing till haif the honor to fie 3our hienefs self, housoeuer matteris succeid thairefter, in maist humillie kissing 3our maiesties handis, and beseking God till grant 3our hienefs als guid succes in all 3our guid and uerteoufs desyris, as I wishe, I taik leif. Middlebruche, the first day of Julij 1596.

3our Maiesties euer maist faythfull, luiffing,  
and obedient subiect and seruitur, to his  
last breath,

ERROLL.\*

IX.—JACOBUS SEXTUS, MAGNIFICIS ET NOBILIBUS ZELANDIÆ ORDINIBUS.  
1596.

JACOBUS Dei gratia Rex Scotorum magnificis et nobilibus  
Zelandiæ ordinibus compatribus suis amicissimis, salu-  
tem et perpetuum felicitatis incrementum.

Nobiles et magnifici domini, amici et compadres nobis sincere dilecti, cum ex vestris literis intellexerimus, Franciscum quondam Arrolia comitem, unum ex perduellium nostrorum numero, cum clandestinum in regnum nostrum reditum pararet, imperio vestro captum ac detentum esse, ac Roberto Daniellstoun priuilegiorum nostrorum conseruatori in custodiam datum, donec de animi nostri voluntate certiora afferri pos-

\* Balcarras Papers.

sent, in toto hoc negotio constantem vestræ erga nos (ut compadres amicissimos decet), benevolentiae tenorem manifestissime perspeximus, magnoque nostro et regni nostri commodo id consilii a vobis captum esse ingenue profitemur, illius enim ceterorumque proscriptorum inopinatus in patriam reditus, periculosum aliquem tumultum excitare potuisset. Quocirca maximas vestris mag<sup>ciis</sup> et meritis gratias habemus, relaturi cum amicissimæ nostræ erga vos voluntatis testandæ, par se occasio obtulerit, quod certissime a nobis expectetis, atque etiam ut pro vestro amicitiae jure cum oportunum fuerit, flagitetis, etiam atque etiam rogamus. Quid autem de Francisco illo proscripto consilii ceperimus, id vobis impartiri volumus, eum scilicet nostrarum rerum statum esse, ut quavis cautione adhibita, eum in patriam redire, nec religioni, nec nobis aut regno, nec vobis amicis nunc expediat. Idcirco eum in custodia detineri volumus, donec sponsoribus hic præstitis caueat (multos enim et potentes affines et consanguineos habet) se neque in regnum nostrum sine licentia et comiteatu nostro, prius impetrato, rediturum, neque interea quicquam, quod vel religioni, vel communi nostro amicorumque et confederatorum nostrorum statui detrimento esse posset, moliturum, præsertim autem nulla cum Hispano consilia communicaturum, sub poena magnæ summæ pecuniariæ, aliisque pœnis quæ legibus nostris consentaneæ sunt, qua fideiussione hic prius præstita, tum eum dimitti volumus, ut vbilibet priuata sua negotia procuret, eo jure quo ante captiuitatem proximam potuerat: hoc vobis ut viris amicissimis significandum duximus. Quæ porro ad hoc negotium pertinent ADRIANO DAMMAN mag<sup>ciis</sup> vestris per eum referenda exposuimus, qui singulari fide, diligentia et integritate hic versatus est, adeo ut non minus quam nostratum aliquis nobis acceptus sit, ei ut commissa referenti fidem, auresque benignas præbeatis, rogamus. Interea Deum optimum maximum precamur, ut vos et diutissime incolumes et in florenti rerum statu conferuet.\*

[*Indorsed.*]

Copie of the Kings letter to the estaits  
of Zeland, auent the taking of the  
Erle of Arrol. 1596.

\* Balcarras Papers.

X.—JACOBUS SEXTUS DILECTO FAMILIARI SUO GULIELMO KEITH.

Nov. 1596.

JACOBUS Dei gratia Scotorum Rex dilecto familiari suo Gulielmo Keyth hæc mandata, serenissimo Venetiarum Duci ejusque potentissimæ ciuitatis senatui prudentissimo exponenda, commisit.

Primum nemini mirum videri debere ostendes, quod nos consilia cum ea republica communicare, fœdusque et amicitiam instituere cupimus, a qua longissima terrarum et maris intercapedine diffiti, ne vel mercatorum quidem commercia habeamus: cum a formidabili Hispaniarum regis vicinitate et potentia metus vtrique nostrum communis sit, periculum vero eorum reipublicæ inde imminens eos quidem tanquam eius regis regis dominiisque vicinos, et olim bello ab eius maioribus vexatos, probe intelligere et summa prudentia præuenturos confidimus.

Nobis vero quantum a tam potentis Regis vicinitate periculi immineat manifestum est, cum Angliam hæreditario jure post mortem serenissimæ Reginæ Elizabethæ nobis debitam, idem Rex vt a pontifice diris deuotam et prædæ expositam belli jure vindicare intendat: certum autem est, omnes Angliæ Reges armis et gloriæ deditos, Scotiæ quoque vt eiusdem insulæ partis exiguæ imperium affectauisse, quanto minus tam potens Rex qui simul semelque Galliam, Germaniam, Inferiorem Angliamque occupare nititur, nos vicinos patietur, ac non potius, vt Ferdinandus eius proauus Nauarrum regem iniuria maxima regna exturbauit, ita nos quoque pretextu aliquo (forte religionis, et a pontifice excommunicari et regno priuari procurabit) atque eo magis, quod ad Angliæ regnum indubitatum jus habeamus: cum certo sibi persuadere possit, saluis nobis nostraque stirpe, nunquam illi Angliæ possessionem quietam fore, quamuis eam vt spe jampridem deuorauit, ita re ipsa armis vique semel occupauisset.

Hoc quoque tibi ostendendum est, dictum Hispaniarum Regem primum

regnum nostrum inuadere decreuisse vt aditu facilius et exponendis copiis magis commodum, et ad comparandos. commeatus, reficiendos milites, conducenda precipue leuioris arma curæ equitum auxilia, propter subditorum nostrorum factiones et de religione controuersias, denique ad totum bellum Anglicum propter vicinitatem valde opportunum.

Totamque huius belli feriem exulum nostrorum consilio compositam esse, idque ex literis ducis Seffæ, qui legatus Romæ residet, ad suum Regem missis, et in itinere per Massiliensium triremes interceptis patere, quarum exemplum ad nos per Christianissimum Galliæ Regem transmissum, ad temissimus, dicto serenissimo duci et senatui communicandum.

His accedit proscriptorum et exulum nostrorum comitum scilicet Huntleæ et Errolæ in regnum nostrum sine nostra licentia reditus, vnde tumultus orientes vix compefcere possumus, quod ab Hispano illis pecuniam administrari et auxilia militum breui secutura et Angliæ Regna et omnes fere subditi nostri certo sibi persuadeant, nam et ob consilia cum Hispano de regni nostri inuasionem communicata a nobis abhinc triennium proscripti et arcibus euerfis bonisque confiscatis e regno pulsi fuerunt, vt eos et denovo consilia cum Hispano communicasse et eius ope fretos in regnum nuper rediisse verisimile sit.

Cum igitur a tam potente aduersario periculum imminens habeamus, cum dicta potentissima republica fœdus et amicitiam inire, si ita serenissimo duci et prudentissimo senatui visum fuerit, necessarium putamus, quod vt enixe petas, tibi specialiter mandamus, potestatemque nostram de ea re consultandi, tractandi, et concludendi commisimus, promittentes in verbo principis nos ratum gratumque habituros, quicquid ad dictum fœdus pertinens cum dicto serenissimo duce et prudentissimo senatu conluseris. Ad milites vero conducendos, et bellum jam fere inceptum propulsandum [pecuniam mutuo accipere, et] amicorum præsidium implorare, et pecuniam mutuo accipere necessarium duximus, et quamuis dictam potentissimam rempublicam vicissim remunerari et eis necessario aliquo tempore præsidium aliquod afferre in potestate nostra situm non videatur, hoc tamen serenissimo duci et senatui considerandum expones præsentem illis vtilitatem ex regni nostri totiusque Britanniae præseruatione fore,

quod futuræ alioqui tanti Regis potentiæ, qui proculdubio aliquando et illis quoque inimicus futurus est, impedimentum aliquod afferetur.

Reputent qua fama et totius Europæ terras Caletum in adspæctu Britannia situm hoc anno expugnauerit, et quanta moles eius magnitudini accederet, si regnum nostrum ut nouum ad Angliam expugnandam aditum vicinis Europeis omnibus dormitantibus et de suo periculo securis, occupare possit.

Si autem (quod indubitatum nostrum jus nostris amicorumque viribus propugnandum promittit) Angliæ imperio potiri nobis aliquando (post mortem scilicet reginæ) contigerit, tum non solum ex mercaturæ commerciis magna dictæ reipublicæ utilitas ex regno nostro accedet: sed etiam quæcumque nobis hoc tam necessario tempore, pecuniæ summam mutuo dederint, summa fide perfoluemus, et semper grato animo eius reipublicæ amorem et in nos beneuolentiam prosequemur.

Interea dictum serenissimum ducem senatumque orabis, ut si quid in nobis est quod ad eorum reipublicæ decus honorem aut emolumentum facere potest, id totum a nobis expectent, gratissimumque nobis futurum iudicabis, si pro amicitia jure id nobis significant, certo sibi spondentes nos illis amicissimos et ad omne amoris officium paratissimos futuros.\*

XI.—JACOBUS DEI GRATIA REX SCOTORUM SERENISSIMO PRINCIPI  
VENETIARIUM DUCI SALUTEM.\*

MISIMUS ad ciuitatem vestram, generosum Gulielmum Keyth, unum ex familiaribus nostris, ut ciuitati vestræ quædam nostro nomine exponeret. Illi vero ciuitatem vestram aures benignas præbuisse intelleximus, quo nomine summas ciuitati vestræ gratias habemus. Plura autem eidem mandata ciuitati vestræ communicanda dedimus. Quocirca ciuitatem vestram oramus, ut pro solita vestra humanitate, illi aures attentas præbere et eam fidem habere oramus velit, quam nobis ipsis, si præsentem essemus, habitura esset. Non dubitamus autem quin quod nobis utile

\* From the original drafts preserved amongst the Balcarras Papers.



est, id quoque inclitæ vestræ Reipublicæ honori et emolumento cedet. Vale, serenissime princeps, Deusque ciuitatem vestram quam diutissime rebus secundis affluentem conferuet. Datæ e Regia nostrâ Sancruciana, Novemb. 1596.

[*Indorsed.*]

*Venice.*

Instructions to Sir William Keith.

XII.—ADRIAN DAMMAN DE BYSTERVELDT AU ROY D'ECOSSE.

iiij DECEMBRE 1596.\*

SIRE,

Suiuant la permission de vostre maieste, j'ay prins la hardieffe d'escrire cestes, mesmement ayant icy entendu d'une grande armee, qui

\* Adrian Damman de Bystervelt was born in the neighbourhood of Ghent, and afterwards taught Latin in that city. Amongst the Balcarras Papers (in which collection this letter and the succeeding one is preserved) there is a letter dated 3d January 1594, from the United States to James VI. appointing Damman Resident at the Scottish Court. The following is an extract from it :—

“ Nous ne doubtons aucunement que vostre maieste ne soit fort bien asseuree du bon zele et singulière deuotion, qu'auons tousiours porté a lendroit d'Icelle, et le respect qu'auons eu a la grandeur et autorité de vostre maieste. Neanmoins pour en rendre plus ample tesmoignage et declaration, aussy pour auoir d'oreseuuant aulcune personne, par le moyen duquel les differens suruenans entre les subjects de vostre maieste, et les habitans de ces pays sur le faict de leurs commerces mutuelles, et train de marchandise puissent estre tant mieulx moyennéz et assopiz, et toute ancienne amitie et bien vueillance reciproqueuse entretenne, ce que par lettres ne se pourroit faire si commodement, auons trouue non moins expedient que necessaire d'employer deuers vostre maieste le S<sup>r</sup> Adrian Damman, luy ayant en premier lieu donné charge de baiser trèshumblement les mains de vostre maieste de nostre part, l'assurer du grand desir qu'auons de continuer en la deuotion qu'auons tousiours porté a Icelle, et luy declarer sa dicte commission de resider avec la bonne grace, et plaisir de vostre maieste en sa Court et Royaume, comme nostre Agent general. A l'occasion de quoy supplions trèshumblement vostre maieste qu'il plaise a Icelle l'accepter pour tel, et le tenir en sa Royale protection, en luy donnant benigne audience et credence, toutes et quantefois besoing sera de remonstrer quelque chose a vostre maieste de nostre part, nous assurant que sa presence sera agreable à vostre maieste, et seruira pour continuer vostre Royale accoustumee benevolence, bonne volonté et affection vers nous laquelle desirons sur toute aultre chose.”

Damman was a great favourite of the King's, and was for several years Professor of Humanity in the University of Edinburgh. He was sent in the year 1596 to the Low Countries, to obtain deli-

fe fait en Espagne, comme par aduertiffemens continuels on cognoit pardeça ; et est l'opinion des gens plus aduisez, que celle soit, ou pour estre enuoyee en Irlande, ou en vostre Royaulme, ou celuy d'Angleterre, chose qui de pres touche vostre maiesté. Je n'ay sceu doncques moins faire, comme tres affectionné et tres obligé seruiteur, que de l'aduertir de ce que dessus, car j'ay la memoire toute fresche de ce que vostre maiesté mauoit commande de prier messeigneurs mes maistres affin d'auoir par eux aduertances quand iuste occasion se presenteroit.

Et fitost que j'estoye arriue en Zelande, j'ay receu lettres de mesdicts seigneurs par lesquelles j'ay este commandé de rapporter a vostre maiesté ce que je viens de dire.

Aussi mesdicts seigneurs m'ont aduertiy de ce que leurs seigneuries ont traicte avec le Roy de France, et la Royne d'Angleterre, y estant invitez par lesdictes maiestés dont de brief ils donneront plaindre cognoissance de ledict part a vostre maiesté. Or comme il a pleu a vostre Royale douceur de me dire sa benigne volonte, touchant ce que vostre maiesté non seulement desire y se joindre, ains comme mesdicts seigneurs m'escriuent auoir tresbonne memoire de ce que vostre maiesté leur a fait remonstrer, par ses ambassadeurs expres, auoir este le premier qui trouuoit vn tel traité, et expedient tres necessaire à la consideration de la Religion Chrestienne, et pour l'estat des princes et seigneurs, en faisans profession au rang desquels mesdicts seigneurs treuent vostre maiesté pour des plus signalez et donnez en nostre temps pour nourisseurs à son Eglise, par la grace de Dieu.

very of the Earl of Errol, who, as before mentioned, had been arrested there. Besides the original MS. of the Bartasias corrected throughout in his own hand, there are the following printed works by him in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates :—

I. Schediasmata Hadriani Dammani, a Bisterveld Gandavensis. 1. De nuptiis serenissimi potentissimique Scotorum regis Jacobi VI. et serenissimæ virginis Annæ, Frederici II. Daniæ, Norvegiæ, etc. Regis, filiæ. 2. De tempestate quæ sponsam Regiam navigantem repulit. 3. In Atheos elegia. 4. In Regis navigationem Danicam emblemata. 5. De Coronatione Reginæ Scotorum Annæ. 6. De introitu ejus in primariam Regni Urbem Edinburgum. Edinburgi, excudebat Robertus Walde-graue, An. Dom. 1590. Cum privilegio Regali. 4to.

II. Hadriani Dammanis a Bysterveldt, D. N. de Fairhill, Bartasias ; qui de mundi creatione libri septem ; e Gulielmi Salvsti D. N. de Bartas septimana Poemate Francico liberius tralati et multis in locis acuti. Edinburgi, excudebat Robertus Walde-graue, Typographus Regis, Anno Dom. 1600. Cum privilegio Regio.

Je ne failly de desclairer ladicte vostre volonte, a messeigneurs les estats de Zelande auec les circonstances que vostre maieste me dit alors, et (comme jugent leurs seigneuries) auec grande raison, ains eux n'en peuuent ; mais, voires, en font scandalizes, comme je remonstreray a vostre maieste estant de retour pardela.

Ne faudray cependant, de fere entendre ladicte benigne volonte vostre de ce que dessus, à messeigneurs les estats generaulx arriuant auecques la grace de Dieu en Hollande de brief, lequel je prie,

Sire,

Auoir vostre Maieste en sa diuine protection.

De Middlebourg en Zelande ce iiij<sup>e</sup> de Decembre 1596, Stilo veteri.

De vostre Maieste le treshumble et trefaffectione seruiteur,

ADRIAN DAMMAN DE BYSTERVELT.

XIII.—ADRIAN DAMMAN DE BYSTERVELT AU ROY D'ESCOSSE.

x DECEMBRE 1596.

SIRE,

Estant jcy arriue en Hollande, n'ay rien eu plus cher que de faire les commandemens de vostre maieste, et jceux entendus, Messeigneurs les estats generaulx ont trefaffectueusement vous remercie, en baissant les mains de vostre maieste bien humblement, dont de brief j'espere que le bon dieu, qui miracleusement m'a preserue à deux diuerfes fois de naufrage, me donnera le moien de faire mon rapport tout à plain.

En ce pais tout est tranquille, graces a dieu, et florissant en bonnes loix, religion et trafique. Il est vrai qui despuis la derniere flotte et expedition en Espaigne, la nauigation n'est si frequente.

Jcy lon dit que la flotte d'Espaigne pour certain ayt esté en chemin, pour se jetter sur l'une des places dont j'ai escript a vostre maieste. Quand j'estoye en Zelande qui feroit forte de 160 galeons, hulques, nauires, patares et portant (comme l'aultres de lan [15]88) feize mille hommes, entre lesquelles il auroit 2100 cheuaulx, et que par tempeste du 25, 26, 27, et 28 d'Octobre elle feroit dissipee, et auroit perdu jusques a 48 nauires avec cinq ou six milles Espaignolls.

En Alemaigne est grand trouble, car l'armee de l'Empereur, qui estoit de quatre vingts mille combatans est rompue par le Turcq, et en sont sur la place demoures morts plus de dix mille, le canon et tresgrand nombre prins, et tout le bagage. On escript jcy pour certain que deuant ladicte bataille deux cerfs se sont venus ruer deuant le palais du dict Empereur, en la ville de Prage et quan apres long combat l'un y dult estre tombé roide mort et l'autre fort bleffé, et au mesme instant le dict palais fust embraise de feu casuel.

Le Turcq auparauant auoit prins la ville d'Agria tresgrande et forte, et ce par trahison d'un Capitaine Hongrois nommé Bliarj, lequel depuis en est fait Baffa.

Lediect Sultan Mahomet l'ayant fait maistre de la Walachie, laquelle a eux soloit estre tributaire, deuant que ces deux ans passez ou enuiron, le Prince de la Transiluanie auoit prins le party de l'Empereur et a fait tuer tous les inhabitans et y à fait venir 800<sup>m</sup> Tartares avec femmes et familles.

Le Baffa de Bude affige avec vne aultre armee la ville d'Altenbourg en lestat de Kamora.

Le grand Turcq est avec son armee en personne et y se iournera contre sa coustume. L'Empereur soubz pretexte d'une diet s'est retire de Prage en la ville de Noremberg.

De la mort du Roy d'Espaigne nous auons jcy auis sur auis mesmement que son filz feroit empoissonne quand de quand. Les Marchans de Genes et aultres estant en arriere du dict Roy de huiet millions d'or font

refusez en Espaigne, et ceux d'Anuers de cinq, chose qui cause en Flandres et Brabant grande alteration.

Le Cardinal d'Auftrie est on se fait malade cependant force matelos et mariniers s'assemblent vers Calais.

La paix faicte entre le Roy de France et le Duc de Sauoye est rompue a cause que le parlement n'a voulu permettre au dict Duc le Marquizat de Salluffe.

Les treues entre le Turq et les Polonnois font renouvelles non obstant l'ambassade et sollicitude du Pape au contraire, et ce, diton, a cause, que le chancelier de Poloigne est ennemy professe de la maison d'Auftrie. La dict Alemaigne est aussi miserablement mangée de la peste. La dict Cardinal prepare ses forces jusques a 18<sup>m</sup> hommes de guerre de ce coste et de France on se prepare aussi.

J'espere de brief auoir l'honneur et heur de dire d'auantage a vostre maieste.

A laquelle je baiffe tres humblement ses mains.

De la Haye ce 8 de Decembre 1596, Stilo nouo.

De vostre ferenissime Maieste tres humble seruiteur,

ADR. DAMMAN.

XIV.—LES ESTATS GENERAULX DES PROVINCES VNIES AU SERENISSIME  
ROY D'ESCOSSE.

XXVIII DECEMBRE 1596.

SIRE,

Nous auons entendu par le rapport du Sr Damman nostre agent, ce quil a pleu a vostre maieste nous faire communiquer par luy de la constitution de l'estat d'Escosse,\* au temps quil en est party, esperans

\* In Thorpe's Catalogue of MSS. August 1835, occurs "Rapport de Monsieur Adrian Damman, agent des Etats des Provinces Unies en Escosse sur l'etat de ce Royaume d'Escosse (1600)."

que icelle vostre maïeste aura depuis tellement pourueu, et donne ordre a tout ce qui pourroit causer plus grands mescontentemens et aigreurs entre les subiects des deux Royaulmes quil n'y arriuera par semblables accidens aucun dangier ou inconuenient, du quelle le Roy d'Espagne nostre ennemi commun se pourroit preualoir en ceste coniuncture au preiudice non tant seulement de l'estat desdictes Royaulmes en particulier, ains de celuy de toute la Chrestienté en general : Nous remercions, Sire, vostre maïeste bien humblement de cest honneur et correspondance, principalement de la demonstration de sa bonne volonte et affection enuers cest estat, avecq assurance que nous vous en demeurerons toujours fort obligez, comme aussi trespapareille a toutes occasions pour correspondre ceste grande faueur par noz bien humbles seruices aultant que nos affaires le pourront aulcunement permettre. Ainsy qu'auons en chargé nostredict agent de le declarer plus amplement ce vostre dicte maïeste, suppliant bien humblement quil vous plaise luy donner en ce regard entiere foy, comme a nous mesmes, et au createur,

Sire,

Quil Oëtroÿ a vostre maïeste en trespapareïcte fante longue et tresheureuse vie. De la Haye le 28<sup>e</sup> Decembre 1596.

De vostre Maïeste bien humble seruiteurs,

LES ESTATZ GENERAULX DES PROVINCES  
VNIES DU PAYS BAS.

Par ordonnance desdictes Estatz,

C. AERSENS.\*

Au Serenissime Roy d'Escoffe.

\* Balcarras Papers.

## XV.—EARL OF HUNTLY TO JAMES VI.

PLEIS YOUR MAIESTIE,

Eftir the suffering of monie hard and uechtie troublis uithin this contrey, and at the last, eftir the banishment of my felf, to gif your maieftie gretar proof of my obediens and affection, I am retournit of intention halie to put my felf in your maieftis uill, and to direct my haille actions heireftir as falbe maist agreable therto, not onlie in amending in quhatfumeuir it fall pleis your maieftie think that I haue offendit towards your maieftie felf, bot alsueill to the kirk, contrey and pairtie, as it fall pleis your maieftie to fet down the uay; for, fra this furth, I haue dedicat my felf to follou your maieftie in all respects,\* and this I esteim the gretest amendement I can offer, albeit my offens uar neuer sua great, and your maieftie knauis that the prins pairt to his subiects fuld be as the fathers to the childrin, not be rigour to feik thair utter ruin (albeit raclefslie thay haue faillit), bot be humiliation to accept thair amendement, the ernist desyr I haue to do your maieftie humble feruis, and that I be not langer

\* The Earl of Huntly was much favoured by James, and, according to popular rumour, his Lordship murdered the Earl of Murray at the instigation of his royal master, who had become jealous of the "Bonnie Earl" (as he is termed in the beautiful ballad on his death), from the praise bestowed on him by Queen Anne. Whatever the cause was, true it is, that Lord Murray was attacked by Huntly, at his seat of Dunyvirhill—his house set on fire, and himself slain. Subsequently he became mixed up with Lords Angus and Errol in the matter of the Spanish Blanks. See Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. i. p. 310. On the 3d of October 1594, he defeated, at the battle of Glenlivet, the Earl of Argyle, who had gone against him—a victory very beneficial to the country people, who otherwise would have been "miserably spoiled" by the Highlanders; Spottiswood's Church History, 1677, folio, p. 409. Huntly and the two other Popish Lords retired abroad, but finding they were little respected there, became anxious to return; and as Huntly was still secretly favoured by the King, this might have been accomplished but for the clergy, who were not easily propitiated. They were not indisposed to favour Angus and Errol, but Huntly was particularly obnoxious. When James hinted the thing to Mr Robert Bruce, he replied, "I see, sir, that your resolution is to take Huntly in favour, which if you do I will oppose, and you shall chuse whether you will lose Huntly or me, for us both you cannot get." The King never forgave the speaker.

debarrit therfra, is the occasion that I haue taine the hardiment to utter the mor plainlie, be this present, my intention, requesting your maiestie to grant me that fauour, as to be relaxit from the profes of excommunication ather be your maiestie and confell, or than be chargis direct to the ministrie of thir pairts to that effect, or be oni uther uay your maiestie fall think maist expedient, that thaireftir I may haue that honour as to cum to your maiestis auin prefens, quhar I fall accomplis, Goduilling, all that I haue promesit be thir presentis ; hoping that your maistie will consider my gud intention and mening in this, and that your maiestie will not debar him from your maiestis prefens and feruis, quhais actions, affection, and obediens fall gif proof of his gud mening. And becaus the hicheft point of my accusation bygaine hes bein vpon inbringing of straingeris, nou your maiestie fall haue proof of me in that point in the contrar, be being the first to uair my bluid aganis thaeme, quhan euer it fall pleis your maiestie to command me. Sua, expecting your maiestis fauorable ansuer, eftir the kissing maist humble of your maiestis hand, I uill end, uiffing at God to giue your maiestie grace to tak that cours quhilk is maist to your maiestis honour, weillfair, and union of your contrey, and to grant your maiestie lang and prosperous rengne. Uretin this penult of December [1596].

Your Maiestis maist humble subiect and  
affectionat seruiteur to my lyuis end,

HUNTLYE.\*

To the Kings Maiestie.

\* Balcarras Papers.



## XVI.—EARL OF ERROL TO JAMES VI.

SIR,

As in all thir tymes past, quhairin I haif sufferit sa gryt trwbles and irrecowerable lossis, God bearis me witnes of a sincer intentioun and dewtifull affectioun to your maiesties seruice, howsoeuer my vprycht meaning hes bein exposit ewill be vtheris, and the effectis thair of conuertit to my awin damag, sa now, as diuerse tymes affoir, I doe maist hwmillie craif your hienefs pardoun for my baldnes in offering my self be this present to your maiestie in all thingis, sa far as appertenis or may be thocht the dewtie of a maist hwmill and faythfull subiect and seruant to his foueraing and maister; quhair of I euer haif bein, am, and salbe, reddie to gif pruiſ with the hazart of my lyf and los of my blood.

In consideratioun quhair of, I doe maist hwmillie beseik, that, as heirtofoir, your hienefs hes nocht disdanit to refaue my letteris, and gif ear also to sic of my freindis as maid suit for me, sa now lykways it may pleas your maiestie patientlie to heir of this berar quhat, on my pairt, I haif directit him to shawe and hwmillie craif of your hienefs, and to instruct him of your maiesties will in all.

And thus cessing farther to impeshe your hienefs with langar letter, in maist hwmillie kissing your maiesties handis, and praying God to bring all your hienefs verteous desingis to the wisht end, I taik leif. The 25 day of Januar 1596. [1597.]

Your Maiesties euer maist luifing, faythful,  
and obedient subiect and seruant, to his  
last breath,

ERROLL.\*

\* Balcarras Papers.

## XVII.—LE COMTE DE NASSAU AU ROY D'ECOSSE.

10 DE JANVIER 1597.\*

SIRE,

Le Sieur Damman, a fon retour en ces pais bas, ma faiët entendre que vofre maieſte me faiët ceſte faueur de me continuer toufjours ſes faveurs roiales, et de me tenir du nombre de ſes plus affectionner ferviteurs, de quoy je me ſens lui eſtre infiniment oblige. Je ne voy voulu laiſſer retourner ſans qu'il portaſt de mes lettres a vofre maieſte pour lui aſſurer de nouveau de l'affection, que je porte a fon ſervice et que je meſtimeray toufjours tres heureux, quand les occaſions ſen offriront, et qu'il vous plaira, Sire, m'honorer de vos commandemens de vous faire cognoiſtre par les effets, que je fuis,

Vofre treſhumble et tres obeiſſant ſerviteur,

MAURICE DE NAUSSAU.†

A la Haye, ce 10 de Janvier —97.

Au Roy d'Eſcoſſe.

[*Indorſed.*]

“ 10 February 1597. Compte Maurice  
to his Maieſtie.”

\* Balcarras Papers.

† Prince Maurice died in the ſpring of the year 1625. “ The Prince,” ſays Baron de Maurier, “ was very ſtrong and indefatigable in labor; he appeared leſſer than he was by being full and fat; his face was plump and ruddy; his beard fair, which he wore very large and broad; he always made uſe of little pleated ruffs about his neck; he never clothed himſelf but after the ſame faſhion, with the ſame ſtuff, and that always of a ſort of brown or muſk colour; his doublet was of ſilk with gold ſtripes; the reſt of his cloathes were woollen, but his cloaks or long-coats were faced with velvet: I ſpeak of his common habit, and not of thoſe that were deſigned for great

## XVIII.—PRESBYTERY OF ABERDEEN TO THE MINISTERS OF LOTHIAN.

BRETHHER,

This is to aduertife how we of this ministrie in this countrey ar chargit be his maieftis letteris, vnder pain of horning, to gif conference to the Erle of Huntley, and farder ar informit that he hes his maiefties letteris to charge ws to refaif his offeris, and gif thai be agreabill with Godis word and weill of the countray, to absolue him fra the sentence of excommunicatioun, or than to compeir within fyftein dayis next after the charge before his maieftie and counfall, and to gif a reafon quhy we will not do the fam. Farder, we ar informit be fum of his freindis that he will offer to fufcryue the Confessioun, and gif cautioun of his freindis for bygane offencis, as the kirk fhall inioyne, albeit we fie not as yit that he is refoluit in the articles of the Confessioun in particular: And therfor, we being heir a few number conuenit to haif gifin conference to him, nocht feing him fa instant in futing therof, as be petitionis gifin in to ws, and fufcryuit be him, quherof ze fall refaif with thir presentis a iuft copie, crafsing of ws that we wald absolue him for the caufis therin' contenit, defyred of him a day to conuen our bretheren of all our prefbyteries, that, with common aduyfe, we mycht gif answer. Also Pa[trick] Murray, his maiefties domeftik, hes fchawin ws fundrie inftuētious of his maieftie, crafsing our answer to the fam, quha hes requyrit ws to affemble our felfis, and declaris that he hes a commiffioun to requyr our bretheren of Murray to conven with ws, and to refaue our answeris to his inftuētionis, quherbe we

feasts and public assemblies. He often wore on his hat a band of diamonds; he was never without a girdle, to which was fastened a sort of belt for his sword that was gilt. I never saw him in any other habit, and yet I have minded him a thousand times at the French church, in the castle at the Hague, which heretofore was a chappel for the Counts of Holland, and often at my father's, whither he used to come either to eat or play at chess, which was his chief diversion."—*Memoirs of Princes of Orange*, p. 148.

ar chargit to subfcrýue the band, to difalow the minifteris of Edinburgh as feditiouse and treasonable; alfo declaring the nulling of the commiffioun of the Generall Affembly be his maiefties counfell, and confequently of ony inhibitioun maid be tham to ftay ws from refauing the erle of Huntley, and that na delay be langer wfit in his refauing be ws, than be the prefbiterie of St Androwis, wes vfit in his excommunication, and that the abfolutioun may be ratefeit heirafter in the Generall Affembly, as the excommunication wes lang after the fentence pronuncit. Item, that we fuld not dout quhat form of fatiffa  tioun he fuld mak, feing the acte of Parliament, maid anno 1572, intituled anent difobedientis quhilk falbe refaut to our foueran lordis mercie and pardon, declares the fam, quhilk is nathing els, but to subfcrýue the Confeffioun of Fayth, and fweir accordingly. Item, we ar chargit to refolue the queftiounis prefented be his maieftie againft the laft of Februar in Perth, and fchewing ws that a number of all prefbiteries, thair with 3ow, moft difcreit, hes affirmit thair is litle queftioun but the hail miniftrie will agre to his maiefties intentioun in all thofe controuerfies. Quhairfore we haif writtin baith to our bretheren of the Merns and Murray to fend fum of thair number beft instructed to keip heir with ws our prouinciall affembly vpon the aucht of Februar, with common aduyfe to gif anwer to his maiefties inft  r  tiounis, and the erle of Huntley his petitiounis: And for the fam caufe hes writtin to 3ow and the bretheren thair, for 3our counfall, and mainlie that ye will imploy 3our credit with fik bretheren as ar maift gratiouse to his maieftie, to obtain a continewatioun of all thir chargis and anwers, till the Generall Affembly nexte at Perth; fpecially feing my lord Huntley is not refoluit in the doutis of religioun, and we ar redy to gif him daylie conference to that effe  te. This day he wes at fermoun in our kirk, bath afor and efter none, and hard the do  trin, and remu  t him felf at the prayer, and we hope if he be found willing afore the tym appointed to the nexte Generall Affembly to do mekle till it for his refolutioun. But if 3e can not get ws continewatioun of his maieftie, we pray 3ow fend ws the counfall and [aduyfe] of the bretheren maift difcreit thair with 3ow, with all diligence, that we may haif the fam befor the 8 of Februar. In the mein tym commendis our felfis to 3our ernes  t prayeris to God for ws,

as we lykwyfe do pray for zow. From Aberden, the penult of Januar 1596. [1597].\*

*Indorfed:*

Copie of the letter sent be the presbitery of Aberdein to the Minifters of Louthian anent the Erle of Huntlie, penult Januarij 1596.†

XIX.—ROBERT LORD CRICHTON OF SANQUHAR TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

Finding na fuir commoditie till now, I wes constrainit till delay the fending zour maiesties letters, quhill I ranconterritt this gentilman, quha promist till delyuer thame out of his awin hand. At my arryual in France, I went immediatlíe to the army befor Amiens,‡ quhair I delyueritt zour maiesties letters to the king and Monsieur de Rohan,§ and retirit thair anfuers, quhilkis it will pleis your maiestie reffaiſ fra this beirir. I rememberitt lykwayis zour maiesties commendatiouns to Monsieur du Mayene, quhometo zour maiestie in my simpill opinioun fuld do verie weill to wryte, and gif it wer bot a letter of complimentis till enterteney his affectioun to zour seruice, for zour maiestie may mak zour count to draw mair seruice out of that prince alane, and ze haif ado with

\* His Lordship was finally absolved and reconciled to the church. See Melros Papers, vol. ii, p. 613 to 618. Edinburgh, 1837. 4to. A very amusing account of the ceremonial upon the occasion of receiving his Lordship and the Earl of Errol to the King's peace, at Aberdeen, is given in a letter from Thomas Mollisone to Mr Robert Paip, Advocate, 27th June 1597. *Analecta Scotica*, vol. i. p. 299.

† Balcarras Papers.

‡ This reference to the troops of Henry IV. being before Amiens fixes the date of the letter, as the Spaniards having in 1597 surprised that city, the King immediately besieged and retook it, in spite of the efforts of Archduke Albert. Upon learning the news of the surprisal, his majesty said, "Let us go; we have acted the King of France long enough; it is now time to act the King of Navarre."

§ The Viscount de Rohan, a distinguished Huguenot warrior. He was created a duke and peer in 1603, was mortally wounded at the battle of Rheinfeld, and died on the 13th of April 1638, at the Abbey of Kunisfield, in the Canton of Bern. His corpse was interred in the Great Church of Geneva. He bequeathed his armour to the Republic of Venice, and it was received by the senators with extraordinary respect. Henry IV. having paid his addresses to his sister Catherine, she told him that she was too poor to be his wife, and of too good a family to be his mistress.

men, then a greit pairt of the rest of your forraine freindschips, as weil for his valour and experience, quhilk I can beir witnefs in this army he hes schawin at this tyme to surpafs all the captaines in France, as for the greit affectioun he caryis towards your maiestie, quhair of I may also beir record, as haiffing it out of his awin mouth. I mynd, God willing, to taik journey towards Italy within four or fyue dayis, quhilk culd be na soner; for being engadgit with the king be his command, I culd nocht with my credeit leif him till he was reteirit himself, and had put the army in garnifoun. I will ceifs to wryte your maiestie onie occurrents, for I am certaine ze haif thame frescher and frome a bettir place be Ingland; always I haif informit the berar of sic as wer currant in this court for the present, quha will informe your maiestie at length. As for my awin pairt (Sir), I wald onlie wifs at God, that I mycht be that happy anis in my lyfe to do your maiestie onie aggreable seruice, as ane quha finding him self fa far chargit in obligatioun, nocht onlie as a commoun and naturall subiect, bot be infinit particular fauours, that I am forie that I am wna-bill to gif your maiestie at this tyme onie small recognoffance of resentment, bot man intreit your maiestie to content your self to reffaif of him, quha man remaine raither in hairt, then habilitie to answer thame, in place of thay humbill thankis, that I aw a deuotioun of mynd fa greit, that it dar compar evin with the greitnes of your maiesties fauour. Sua, humbly submitting my nakit good will and pore seruice to your maiesties gracious censure, quha can serue your self of the litile merit of wtheris to maik your fauours the greiter, I hoip to comporte my self, sua that your maiestie fall iudge me for a faithfull and affectionat seruand, quha seiking all meinis to inhabill himself to do zow seruice, fall neur ceifs, till sum happy occasioun present, quhairin your maiestie may fie that thair is nane liuing, quha caryis a mair honest and trew hairt to your seruice, then your maiesties maist humble and affectionat seruitour,

SANCHAR.\*

Paris, 3 September [1597.]

To the Kingis Maiestie.

\* Robert, sixth Lord Crichton of Sanquhar, had charters of the barony of Sanquhar, 27th July 1609, and of Gowrie House in Perth, 10th January 1611. In 1605, whilst on a visit to Lord

## XX.—PRIVATE INSTRUCTIONS BY KING JAMES VI. TO HIS AMBASSADORS.

A Priuate Instruccion to the Erle of Marre and Abbot of Kinloffe, my Ambaffadouris touardis the Quene of Englande.

YE fall temper and frame all youre dealing uith the quene or counfall, by the aduife of my freindis thaire, quhose counfall ye fall directlie follou in all youre behauioure thaire, uith these referuations only, quiche by tounge I deliuered unto you, and if that actuallie thay performe thaire, promiseis on thaire pairt, I giue you by these presentis of my owin hande, ample powaire to giue thaime full affurance of my affifting thaime accordinglie.

JAMES R.\*

Norreys, in fencing with a fencing-master called Turner, his Lordship accidentally got one of his eyes put out, and was for some time in danger of his life. Seven years afterwards he hired two assassins, one of them called Robert Carlyle, to murder the unfortunate Turner, which was effected by the last named person, who shot him with a pistol, 11th May 1612, for which he and his accomplice were executed. Lord Sanquhar absconded, but was apprehended, tried, and sentenced to die. He was hanged on a gibbet with a silken halter, erected in Great Palace Yard, before the gate of Westminster-hall, 29th June 1612. He died penitent, professing the Roman Catholic religion. He married at St Anne's, Blackfriars, 16th April 1608, Anne, daughter of Sir George Farmer of Easton, in the county of Northampton, but had no issue by her. He left all his property to his natural son, but the heir-male, William, seventh Lord Sanquhar, disputed the succession, and matters were adjusted upon a reference to James VI., who issued notes of an award, an extract from which was printed by Lord Hailes, *Memorials of the Reign of James VI.* p. 51. See also the Melros Papers, pages 127, 132, 133, 264, 265. The King ordered that the magistrates of Perth should take an "exact count and inventorie of the haille gudis, gear, plenishing, hingings, siluer-work, and quhat else is within his house in Perth, or any other part of the burgh, and put them in sure custodie."—*Chronicle of Perth*, p. 13. Great interest was used to save his Lordship's life, but James was inexorable; less; it is said, from an extraordinary love of justice, than because his Lordship had not resented an insult offered to his Majesty in a company in Paris, where some one had observed that it was no wonder James was called Solomon, since he was the son of David—*i. e.* David Rizzio. His Lordship, if the story be true, suffered not because he had killed one man, but because he had not killed two. This letter is amongst the Balcarras MSS.

\* Autograph of the King. Balfour MSS. This embassy was sent in February 1601, ostensibly for the purpose of congratulating Elizabeth upon her suppression of the Earl of Essex's insane

## XXI.—FROM AN UNKNOWN PERSON\* PERHAPS TO THE LORD OF KINLOSS.

ALBEIT that I haue not aunfwered your lordships letter, neuerthelefs I hoope that my filence shal receiue that fauorabl construccion which my innocency may challenge of right; for I was resolued to commit no letter to the hands of fortune, feeling that the expectation of a litl tyme might secure the passage of thoofe papers, which I decreed to consecrate only to your self. And if the debt I owe you might bee payed by woordes, I would frankly spende al my tyme in acknowledgement of your fauours, which beare fruits of such forte, that so soone as I haue receaued them, they begin to bud forth, and to produce new bloffomes. Neuerthelefs, my hoope is, that al the world shal knowe, that power in requiting hath rather fayled mee, then will. Therfor, pardon mee, I beseech you, if, wanting meanes to discharge the debt I owe, I am constrained to runn on the old skoare, and to spende stil out of your lordship's stocke.

I haue at length sent his majesty an abstract of such gentlemen's names as are in greatest accompt in Englande, the greatest part wherof

attempt at rebellion. The letter written by James to the English Queen is printed in Crawford's *Lives of the Officers of State*, p. 403; the real object was to conciliate his friends in London, and settle with Cecil and the rest of them the line of procedure to be adopted in the event of Elizabeth's demise. It was on this occasion that the secret correspondence was arranged, which has been partially printed by Lord Hailes. Edin. 1766, 12mo. "The Queen received Lord Mar very graciously, and besides other things presented him with a very fyne bason and lawer of mother of pearle, with several rubies and pearles sett therein, which the family have this hour."—*History of the Family of Marr*, collected in the year 1705, by Mr George Erskin, Bailif of Alloa. MS. in possession of the Editor.

\* This letter, which is written in a very legible and distinct hand, has the figure 7 substituted for the writer's name; who he may have been the Editor has been unable to ascertain. There is another letter from the same person to the King, in which the proper names are also indicated by figures; and, to increase the difficulty, the figure 7 is in it applied to some other individual. Both letters are amongst the Balfour MSS.



are knowne vnto my self: the rest I haue had intelligence of by many wary questions, and fundry relations of thooſe that weer well assured of that which they informed. And concerning the apologetical preface, I haue deliuered my opinion, wherin I jumpe juſt with your lordſhip's cenſure therof, hooping that his highnes will take your woord in my behalfe, that my difference from the forme of an apology, ſpringeth not from any ſpirit of contradiction, but from the obedience I owe, to anſwer truly vnto euery demaunde his maieſty ſhal propounde vnto mee. Alſo, I haue ſent a diſcourſue aunſwer vnto certeyne questions, wherin I ſuppoſe, that though perhaps I may ſeeme to ſhoote at rouers, I haue not ſhott very wide from the marke. Our queene is trubled with a rhowme in her arme, which vexeth her uery much; beſides the greefe ſhee hath conceiued for my lord of Effex his deathe:\* ſhee ſleepeth not ſo much by day as ſhee uſed, nether taketh reſt by night: her delight is to ſit in the darke, and ſometimes with ſheddinge of tears to bewaile Effex. This is the reaſon that wee haue ſo many horſe about London, the particularitis wherof I refer to Mr Foules. In any caſe, let mee intreate you to ſollicite his maieſty to ſend often, and though the journey bee longe and peynefull, I doubt not, but that Mr Foules will gladly vndertake the charge, wherin ſo good ſeruice may bee performed: for it is expedient that the meſſenger bee ſkilful in our preſent eſtate, truſted by us, and knowne to bee confidente with the kinge. Concerning my ſelf, or the ſeruice which I may performe, ether in this place, or in any whatſoeuer, I proteſt that I remayne firme, and ready to bee imployed whenſoeuer his maieſty ſhal grace mee with his commandements. For I breathe no other contentment then that which may turne to the aduancement of ſo gracious a prince, and the eaſe of his diſtreſſed cuntry. In what ſtate wee ſtande at this preſent, may better bee related by Mr Foules, Quæque ipſe miſerrima vidit, then by a ſhort narration of perpetual woes.

Therfor I will aduertife your lordſhip of your owne affairs, wherin I haue traueyled to the vttermoſt of my power, and gotten a particular

information for al Caris proceedings touching Whorlton.\* The common voice of the tennants is, that hee payed only a 1000 marks to the queen; but hauing conferred with himself, I founde him much discontented; as hee pretended, for the great price he had payed, videlicet, 1800 lib. ; but I beleue him not therin, nether doth 3. or I think it fitt that any thirde perfon shoulde compounde with him for itt ; for it is certeyne that, feing it is already leaced, it wil not bee bought but at an vnreasonabl rate, and the tyme will come when he wilbe glad to take half the mony hee hath disbursed, for his interest therin. The queene hath fold a greate parte of the Duchy of Cornwall and Lancafter, which landes must ether be recalled, as wee haue a president therof in Henry the Fourth's tyme, or boughte agayne to vnite them to the crowne. I haue sent your Lordship a draught of the furuay of Whorlton, which I gott cunningly out of the checker. Likewise, you shal receive a copy of a letters pattents, taken out of the R[ecords?] which is counted to conteyne the moast general woordes that may bee used in a good and perfect assurance. And albeit, that the name of a rectory agree not with your mannors, it importeth not, feing that mutatis mutandis, for as much as concerneth the names, the whole procefs of the graunte is to be obserued. I feare that you can hardly reade itt, for it is written in badd Lattin and abbreviations, which is the manner of the clarks that copy anny recorde out of the chauncery. The graunte you sent mee, with the claufe of renewinge the letters pattents in die illo, is held to bee better then any other assurance that can nowe bee made by the kinge. I will deteyne your Lordship no longer : beseeching you to build upon

\* Whorlton, in the district of Cleveland, Yorkshire, had been granted by Henry VIII. to Matthew Earl of Lennox, and Margaret his wife. From them it appears to have passed into the hands of Henry Earl of Northumberland, who shot himself in the Tower, 21st June 1585; as, by an inquisition *post mortem*, taken at Topcliffe (2d October), it is proved that he was seised of the castle and manor of Whorlton. Possession afterwards seems to have been resumed by the crown; and the Carey referred to in the letter may not unreasonably be conjectured to have been Sir Robert Carey, afterwards Earl of Monmouth, whose father, Lord Hunsdon, was maternally related to Elizabeth. The advice given relative to the treating with this person, materially supports the presumption that the party addressed was Lord Bruce of Kinloss, as he afterwards obtained a crown grant of the estate, which is now in possession of his descendant the Marquis of Ailesbury, one of whose titles is Earl Bruce of Whorlton.

that good foundation of my affection, which your merite hath firmly layd ; for my desir is to streyne my vttermoast ability to bee alwaies of the formoast in

Your Lordships seruice,

.7.

XXII.—JACOBUS REX SCOTORUM, INVICTISSIMO PRINCIPI SHAUGH ABBAS.  
1601.

JACOBUS, Dei Gratia, Rex Scotorum, Omnumque Insularum circumjacentium : ac Regnorum potentissimorum Angliæ et Hiberniæ summo ejusdem Jehonæ nutu Hæres proximus.

Potentissimo et invictissimo Principi Shaugh Abbas, Perfarum, Medorum, Parthorum, Hircanorum, Carmanorum, Margianorum, populorum, cis et ultra Tigrim Fluvium et omnium intra mare Caspium et Perficum finum, nationum atque gentium Imperatori : Salutem et rerum prosperarum foelicissimum incrementum.

Cum non ita pridem, nobilissimus ille Eques Anglus, ANTONIVS SHERLEIVS\* Legatione sibi a Majestate vestra commissâ pulcherrimè functus apud

\* Sir Anthony Shirley, knight, was the second son of Sir Thomas Shirley of Wistenston, Sussex, by Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Kempe. He was protected by Robert Earl of Essex, under whose auspices he undertook several voyages. ! Queen Elizabeth sent him in 1596 into America, and afterwards, in the winter of 1598, into Italy, to assist the Ferrarese, who had revolted from the Pope. He subsequently went with his brother Sir Robert to Persia, where he was favourably received, and in 1601 was employed by Shah Abbas to negotiate a general alliance with all the Christian powers against the Turks. His Majesty, however, detained Sir Robert, "being younger, and therefore the more to be tendered, and not every day exposed to new dangers."—Purchas, his Pilgrims, Part II, p. 1407. The letter from the Balfour MSS. by James to the Persian Monarch refers to this embassy. After many vicissitudes of life and strange adventures, this remarkable person died in Spain, in the year 1636. The exploits of Sir Anthony and his two brothers form the subject of a very entertaining dramatic piece by Day, Rowley, and Wilkins, intituled "The Travels of the Three English Brothers, Sir Thomas, Sir Anthony, and Sir Robert Shirley, an Historical Play. 1607, 4to."

multos Principes, in Aula etiam Cæsarea, sapienter fortiterque permulta de rebus Perficis perorasset : dici non potuit quantum splendoris nomini vestro accefferit, cum omnes publice testarentur, neque per vastas solitudines, aspera juga, vel insolita maria, ullam virtuti vestræ inviam esse viam : num cum plurima apud nos ab historicis commemorantur bella factaque egregia, ab Imperatoribus Perficis, terra marique gesta, in quibus fortuna maximam partem proprio quodam suo jure expetere videatur. In ista Legatione, qua sancta hospitalitatis jura, et dulcia communis humanitatis officia inter nos, nostra regna, nostrosque subditos constitui, coli et constanter conseruari queant, non hoc fortunæ sed consilii, non casus sed virtutis, certissimum argumentum esse constat. Nec in re tam plana hallucinari debemus, quin omnipotentis Dei summa providentia ratum esse fateamur ; vt fortissimus ille miles Sherleyvs, nullis vel parentum illustrium præcibus, vel amplissimi patrimonii spe flecti potuit, quo minus dulcissima sua patria derelicta in sinum Majestatis vestræ seipsum fortunamque suam conjicerit ; speramus itaque brævi affuturum tempus cum ex mutuo omnium Principum consensu, infesta gentis Turcicæ insignia lacera et sub pedibus contrita, ludibrio et risui exponentur. Veruntamen illud nos male habet, quod in re tam serua et tam necessaria de Anglorum auxiliis nihil promittere, nedum sperare ausi sumus. Herois etenim Comitæ Effexij, qui ad omnes bellicas expeditiones fulminis instar paratus esse solebat, violenta ac inopinata mors, Regni illius incolas adeo obstupefecit, vt interna potius timere, quam externa sperare, malint : maxima quippe pars eorum qui Anglorum habenas hodie moderantur priuatis odijs non solum inter se certant ; veruntamen propter initam a mercatoribus suis cum Turcis amicitiam, strenue, huic nostræ legationi sese opponunt. Quod cum per confidentes nostros exploratum haberemus illico Equitem Sherleyvm admonere et hortari, non dubitauimus, ne vana et Majestati vestræ non profutura sibi ipsi exitialia inciperet. Qui quidem authoritati ac consilio nostro acquiescens, exulem se fieri quodammodo passus est, vt posthac cum corona illius imperii ad nos deuoluta fuerit, vberiores fructus laborum suorum reportare possit. Nam cum Regnum Angliæ munitissima classe instructum, ac totius orbis circumnauigatione celeberrimum terrorem maximum genti Ottomanæ incutiat, dubium

non est, quin diuino spirante numine ex istis amicitiae foelicibus auspicijs, vobis et nostris eternam gloriam cum summa vtilitate conjunctam aliquando finis consequuturi. Magnanimum itaque Equitem Sherleyvm Majeftati vestrae ita commendatum esse velimus, vt pote hominem omnis generis armorum, et politicae rationis peritissimum, in quo minus valent verba quam fides, manus quam animus, vtrisque tamen insignibus praeclarus. Etsi fortitudinem illam quae virtutis stirpe stipata mirum suae indolis specimen toties edidit, conferuatam et nutritam fore intellexerimus vniuerso mundo palam innotescere faciemus, plus virium habuisse beneuolentiam ad nos coniungendos, quam terram et mare ad nos longissime seperandos. Deus Optimus Maximus salutem omnem et perpetuam vestrae concedat Majeftati. Datum in Scotia in inclito nostro Palatio Edinburgi, Anno Mundi 5680, Domini nostri Iesu Christi 1601, Regnorum vero nostrorum xxxiii.

Amantissimus frater tuus,

JACOBUS R.

Potentissimo et invictissimo Principi, SHAVGH ABBAS, Persarum, Medorum, Parthorum, Hircanorum, Carmianorum, Margianorum populorum, cis et ultra Tigrim fluuium, et omnium intra mare Caspium et Persicum finum, nationum atque gentium, Imperatori.

XXIII.—SIR JAMES COLVILLE TO THE LORD OF KINLOSS.

COUSING,

Efter my hartly commendation, I culd not omit thir feu lynis that ze may knau of my prosperus ariuel to this toun, desyring zou to haue my maist humble seruice recommendit to his hines. It greifis mekil in my passing throuche Ingland, the los he hes for laik of sum resident honest man, in quhom baithe his maistie nicht confyd, and sik as interly

low him nicht affur them felfis; for, to be plain, I dout vtheris for caufis I vill not vret. I pray the Lord grant him that grace that he may faueur them quha lovis him aboue al. I dout not bot or now ze haue refautit my letter from Londoun, defyring ernestly to knau the fucces of that maiter aganis his maieftie. I hoip vithe the grace of God to difcouer mair in that nor his maieftie hes zit hard; as also in fundry other practifes aganis him. At my firft cumming I heir no bruit but of ver, quhilk I beleue not, albeit it be faid heir his maieftie is makand for Lion for the fecours of Geneua, quhilk I dout not ze haue hard hes falziit to be takin be the duik of Sauoy: fua is it vretin heir be the governouris nepho from curt. It fhuld haue bein takin be ane pilard: they var anes fyve hundrethe within the toun, quherof at left remanit 300 vithe the principal quho comandit. Monfieur de Buillon cummis not, bot the king hes fend ane Commartyn to him: I knau not his meffage. The greteft thing is imput to him that he fhud haid fum condition of filuer for agreing the Archiduik and Compte Mons.

It is not thocht that he haid ony deling vithe Marifhal de Biron,\* in ony fort to haue bein ane Espainzol; alwayis vithe my nixt I fhall do gud vil to aduertis zou. For the reft of Marifhal de Biron his conspiracy, the king hes, as I can lerne, pardonit al. For Monfieur Monbarro, gouverneur of Rems, his maieftie defyrit to knau, quhither he vald haue grace or iuftyce: his anfuer vas iuftyce, for he haid neuer failit to his maieftie,

\* Charles Gontault, Duc de Biron, Peer and Marshal of France, was condemned to death, and his effects confiscated, the 31st of July 1602. Of the justice of his sentence there can be no question; but when his former services to Henry IV. are remembered, we cannot help thinking that it might have been commuted. "The executioner," says Pierre Mathieu, "struck him so high above the nape of the neck as hee glanced vpon his Iawe-bones, and left a great tuft of hair on his neck. Being dead, hee shewed choller in his countenance, as they write of the souldiers which died at the battle of Cannas. Every one departed, commending the Kings justice, and lamenting the misery of so valiant a man, beleeving that of long time they should not see his equall." Grimeston's translation of the General Historie of France [Lon.] 1624. Folio, p. 1049. When Baron de Biron, he consulted a magician at Paris as to his future fortunes, who told him, "That only a back blow of the Bourguignon would keepe him from being a king." This prediction was remembered when in the Bastille, and having learned that the executioner of Paris was a Bourguignon, he exclaimed, "I am a dead man." That admirable old poet, Chapman, wrote a Tragedy in two parts, entitled "The Conspiracie, and Tragedy of Charles Duke of Byron, Marshall of France, acted lately in two playes at the Black-friars and other publike stages." London, 1625. 4to.

faif that he hed ingagit al he haid for his feruice: it is rather thocht Mairifhal de Bryfak his il vil nor ony other thing agains him, faue the takin doon of Fontineles\* hed, quhilk vas fend to Rhems, quhilk he caufit tak doon, he being his kinfman.† I man zit ernoestly request zou to remember my coufing, Captain Coluill, to his maiestie, quha hes lofit al his eferance for his maiesties feruice, and hopis he shal shortly git better prouf nor he hes zit doon. I vret to zou afor tuiching mester David Foulis;‡ lat him mak zou priue to the maiter; for the man is content, and defyris only the furtie of convoy. Al vther thingis to neu occasion, and my hartly commendationis to your brother. Praying zou that this may ferue zou and fir Thomas Erskyne,§ I remain

Your maist loving Coufing,

JAMES COLUILL  
of Weimes.

From Calys our first of Januar [1603.¶]

To my Lord,  
My Lord of Kinlos.

Ther vas neuer fo mayny passageris heir away. I pray the Lord it be for gud; but his maiestie hes gret caus to luik to him self.

\* The Baron de Fontenelles was broken on the wheel for his participation in Biron's conspiracy.

† Monbaraut was committed to prison.

‡ Knighted 13th May 1603, and created a Baronet 6th February 1619. He was cofferer to Prince Henry, and afterwards to his brother. He died in the year 1642.

§ Viscount Fenton, 18th March 1606, and Earl of Kellie, 12th March 1619. He was one of the individuals who assisted to rescue the King from the Earl of Gowry and his brother, and for his services obtained a considerable share of the estates of that unfortunate family. He died at London, 12th June 1639, in the 73d year of his age.

¶ An extract from this letter has been published by Lord Hailes, who fixes the date to be 1603, from the notice of the manuscript of the Duke of Savoy's attempt on Geneva. Peace was concluded in July 1603 between the Duke and the Genevese.

## XXIV.—LORD FYVIE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST HEIGH, MAIST EXCELLENT, AND MIGHTIE PRENCE,  
MY ONLYE SOUERAINE AND GRACIOUS LORD,

The lang pruiſſ and experience I haue had off your gracious maieſties thochts and cair, eiuer greater for the weill and tranquillitie of your peipill and ſubiects, nor for your awin eaſe, has maed me to abſtein frome wryting to your maieſtie this lang quhyle, affuring me ſelf that this happie accreſſe off your maieſties dominions has increſſit alſo greatumlie the occupations off your maiſt nobill minde, and that your hienefs be frequencie off lettirs frome all pairts has bein ſa occupiet, that butt offence your maieſtie could nocht be impaſchit or diſtractit frome ſa greate affairs, till now, at laſt, I haue reſolued to be my bound dewtie, to gif your maieſtie fuim coumpit off that precious jowell it pleaſit your hienefs to credit to my keiping, your maieſties nobill iſſue and ſone Duc Charles, quha is (praifit be God) for the preſent at bettir health far then he was, and, to mak your maieſtie mair particular accoumpit, eats, drinks, and uſis all naturall functions as we wald wiſe in onye child off his graces age, except that his night's reſt is nocht as zit ſa found as we hoipe in God it ſhall be ſhortlie. The greate weakneſſe off his bodie, after ſo lang and heuie ſeikneſs, is meikill ſuppliet be the might and ſtrength off his ſprit and minde: I will aſſure your maieſtie he luiks als ſtatlie, and bearis als greate ane maieſtie in his countenance, as could be requirit of onye prence, albeit four tymis aboue his age. I hoipe in God your maieſtie ſhall haue pleaſour and confort off his grace. This I can aſſure your maieſtie, be the grace of God, thair ſhall nathing be omittit may appartein to dew ſeruite or guid attendance on his grace, quhilk may lye in my ſobir powar or habelitie quhatſomeuer. As to the affairs off this your maieſties realme, ſence your hienefs departour frome us (thanks to God), all is in reaſonabill guid quietneſs, nor we haue hard off na breake as zit



off ony consequence, except in the far Hielands fuim treubill amangs thame selfs betuix Donald Gorme and MacClaude Hereis, quhilk trublis na thing the Lawland. Your maiestie will onderstand be your counfalls lettirs the estait and proceedings with Macgregors. Gif all the greate Hieland clannis war at the like point, I wald think it ane greate ease and weill to this commoun weill, and to your maiesties guid subiects heir. Sik noumber of your maiesties counfall as is heir (quhilk your maiestie may confider to be bot weake in respect off these that ar with your hienefs), has alwayis hithertill waitit on werie weill and diligentialie on the counfall, and all affairs baith concerning the publik gouvernement, and particulars belanging to all preparations for the queeins maiesties journey. I fall, God willing, for my awin pairt, keip that bound dewtie quhilk I haue aduowit and promist to your maiestie, and quhilk the innumerable fauours and benefitts I haue resauit off your hienefs onely beneuolence and maist gracious fauour towards me, requiris off me, and binds me to. Sa, maist humblie taking my leue, and praying the king eternall off all kingdomes, as he has augmented your maiesties dominions to sa greate confort and contentment of all your hienefs subiects, sa to mantein your maiestie in lang and prosperous reigne and gouvernement aboue us. With the maist humble kisse off your gracious maiesties hand, I reſte

Your Maiesties maist humbill and loyall seruitour,

FYVIE.\*

Edinburgh, 29th April 1603.

To the Kings Maiestie.

\* Alexander Seton, third son of George, sixth Lord Seton, and brother of Robert, first Earl of Winton, was originally destined for the church, and went to Rome to perfect his ecclesiastical studies. The Reformation induced him to change his intentions, and to betake himself to the study of the law. Finding favour in the eyes of James, his promotion was rapid. He was made President of the College of Justice, 28th May 1593; a Peer of Parliament, by the title of Lord Fyvie,

## XXV.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

Hir maiesties prefent estaite and condition I refer to the beiraris reporte. Of hir graices departour to Striveling,\* I wes nawayes ane mover thairof, nather fkairse acquaynte thairwith; as this beirar cumming in haifte can sufficiently impaire to your maiestie hir graices prefent estaite and

4th March 1597–8. He was appointed Lord Chancellor in 1604, and created Earl of Dunfermline, 4th March 1605. Spottiswoode observes that he exercised his place with great moderation, and to the contentment of all honest men. "He professed himself," says Scotstarvet, "a Protestant in outward show, but died an avowed Papist."—*Staggering State*. Edin. 1754, 12mo. p. 17. He left a large estate, which was made away with by his only son, a very dissipated person, who was so much addicted to gambling, that, if we may credit Scotstarvet, "when he was debarred by promise to play at no game, he devised a new way to elude his oath, by wagering with any who was in his company, who should draw the longest straw out of a stack with the most grains of corn thereon."

The Lord Chancellor died at his seat of Pinkie, on the 16th of June 1622, and was buried at Dalgetty in Fife, with great funeral solemnity, on the 19th of July following. Various interesting particulars relative to his death, and the estimation he was generally held in, occur in the *Melros Papers*, vol. ii, pp. 460, 477, 478. A poem of some merit, written by John Lyoun, on his demise, published at Edinburgh, 1622, was some years ago reprinted, as a contribution to the Bannatyne Club, by one of the original members.

\* Her majesty's visit to Stirling, and subsequent illness, arose out of the following circumstances:—

John, Earl of Mar, Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, was much esteemed by James VI. who appointed him governor of Prince Henry. He gave him "a warrant, all with his own hand, ordering him not to deliver up his son to any person, yea, not though he subscribed a warrant to that effect, only in case he ordered him by word of mouth to do so, and in such company as he knew he liked; and it bears, in case of his maiesties death, a command not to deliver him up neither for Queen nor Estates of Parliament, till the Prince came to be eighteen years of age, when he might command himself; which argued ane exuberant trust."—*Erskyn's MS. Memoirs of the Family of Mar*. Upon the accession of James to the crown of England, he left the Queen to follow him within about forty days afterwards; but the Prince was to remain at Stirling. Her majesty, however, who was probably jealous of the influence the Earl might acquire over the mind of her son, proceeded to Stirling, where his Lordship resided, and unsuccessfully attempted to carry off the Prince. Her failure threw her ill, and occasioned a miscarriage.

The King, alarmed for his wife, authorised the delivery of the Prince; but her majesty insisted that Lord Mar should make public reparation for his alleged misconduct. This being refused, she became very much enraged, and was with difficulty reconciled to his Lordship, who, by act of council, was declared to have done nothing that might affect her honour.—See *Birch's Life of Prince Henry*. 1760, 8vo. p. 30, 31. A letter from the Privy Council, on the subject, will be found in the *Melros Papers*, vol. i, p. 3. The King's letter, sanctioning Lord Mar's conduct, is, with relative papers, in the Appendix to Hailes' "Memorials" of the Reign of James.

cumpanye, sua it wer loft labour to me to wryte any thing, quherof I haif na forder warrand, bot of this beirar him self. Your maiestie fall be fullye acquainted at all occafions how materis fall fall out heir ; bot if hir hienes jorney wer anes vndertakin, your grace fuld fie ane amendment in bygane oversichts, that micht be imputed to ws in the government, and ane honest and disposit refolutioun in my self, at leift to postpone all the feir of hazaird, danger, or inconueniens to that quhilk may redound in any wayes to your maiesties honour, or serue for the weill of the puire subiectis within this your hienes realme. And sa at the present humblie kissing your graice handis, I tak my leave, praying the Almighty God to preserue your maiestie in ane gude, happye, and prosperous estaite, be

Your Maiesties maist humbe and obedient  
subiect and seruitour,

MONTROISS.\*

Halyrudhous, 10th May [1603 ?]

#### XXVI.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

Thir vnluiked for mishappes falling furth heir in this cuntrey, thortureing that contentment quhilk your maiestie refaues, in these pairtis, na doubt ar the bettir acceptit, and the mair patientlye borne with be your hienes, that in this lyife thair can be na full and compleitt hap-pines. I will nawayes renew the remembrance of that laite accident,

\* John, third Earl of Montrose. He died 9th November 1608. At the period this letter was written, he was Lord Chancellor of Scotland. Scotstarvet says, in his "time that line was written in the sederunt-house,

*Et Bibulo memini consule nil fieri;*

for he was altogether void of learning, which King James finding, and perceiving his error, got a fair means to shuffle him out by making him Vice-Roy at a Parliament, 1604, and then putting in Chancellor Seaton in his place. After which he retired home."—*Staggering State*, p. 14. All the letters that follow, excepting those otherwise marked, are from the Balfour Collections, in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates.

fafar to be forrowed in the perfoun of the queins graice; albeit, prayfed be God, thair is ane full affurance of hir maiefties preferuatioun and full recovery of hir wounted health; bot being bound in dewtye, as ane of your maiefties fubiectis, and be the greit manifold graices and favors be tymes beftowed upoun me; and laft, in refpect it hes pleafed your maieftie to appoynte me in place of bettir, to fupplie the office of chancellor, I culd nawayes omitt to impaire the very trew eftaite of materis as they ftand heir, for the langer that fyre remaines vndiscovered, the laiter cumis the remeide to quenche it; and that wounde and fore, quhilk at the beginning wes baith eafie and facile to vndertak, be neglecting of it, the cwire of it may trye difficill, if not impoffible. Thair is ane contraverfie and jar enterit betuix fum of the nobilitie, anent this laite queftioun of the princes delyverye. Thefe that accompanied the queins maieftie, ar accompted be the erle of Mar to haif bein the moveris and intyiferis of hir hienes to that enterpryife. Thay thame felfis be aithes proteftis, that thay had na intentioun at all, bot hir graices convoye, being requyred be hir miſſiues thairto. Quhilk chairge thay culd not guidlye difobey. In ather of the contradicours, thair reftis greter hatrent and malice, nor as zit be actioun hes buddit furth; bot if it be nocht preventit, na doubt it is able to mak ane greitar fturre in this cuntrey, than any that hes bein thir mony zeiris ago. In this earand thair reftis famony difficulties, that all men depend vpoun your maiefties will, and nane heir will preifs to meddle with the fame, for be your maiefties laite warrand, it is ordaineit, that the erle of Mar fall haif the princes convoy in the queins cumpanye. The queins maieftie is not of mynd to depairt, vnlefs the prince go with hir, and will nawayes reft contented that the erle of Mar fuld accompany hir. Quherin the counfell heir hes fund that neceffitie vpoun thir conclufiouns, that ather mon thay pafs the boundis of the laft warrand, quhilk thay can nocht guidlie do of thair dewtye, or than be authorizing of it, to offend the quein at this toumeft tyme of hir hienes difeafe. Only I thocht it nocht amifs to impaire the fame to your maieftie, maift humblie befeiching youre hienes to provyde remeids, how the queins graice may reft fatiffied and contentit, the erle of Mar exonerit of that greit chairge, and band that lȳis on him for keeping

of the said prince, and sum ordour to be takin how this eileft and contraverfie, licklye to aryife and increfs amangis thefe of the nobilitie, may be fetlit and pacifiet. Quheranent, I doubt nocht your maieftie immediatlie will forfie ane means to help the fame, according to that wounted pruif of your maiefties wifdome and foirficht, kyithed heirtfoir in the lyke maters. Quhilk as we adoire and admire, fua we reft forye and difcontent to be fa far removeit and feparatit from the prefence of it amangis ws. And fa humblie taking oure leave, wifcheing the almighty God to haif ane cairfull regairde over your maiefties perfoun and eftaite, I reft, attending quhatevir directiouns it fall pleis your maieftie to injoyne, be your

Maiefties maift humble and obedient  
fubieft and feruitour,

MONTROISS.

Halyrudhous, 13 May 1603.

To his Maieftie.

XXVII.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

According to that commiffione quhilk was direct anent the taking ordour with the Clangregor, we haif refautit alreddie aucht pledgis, and the vther four ar expectit for within thrie or four dayis to remane heir in waird, vpon the perrell of thair awin lyfs, to anfuer for the dew performances of all efferis. Your hienes falbe affuirit that the qualitie of the pledgis thame felffis will procure ane neceffitie of the forderance of that wark, the profequuting quherof is nocht to refaue ony lang delay ; feing be theifs gentlemen quha ar commowneris thair is allenarlye aucht oulkis crawit betuix and the ifchew quhairof it is vndertaken, that all that is promefit falbe performit. We mentionat of befoir to your maieftie anent the

transport of sa many of that clan that are appointed for banishment, that ane schip might be send hither. We mon maist humblie renew our fwite, feing all theifs quha are to depart, in quhilk nomer the laird him self is ane, ar to be in redines heir, reddy to embark agane witfontyid, being vnable of thame selffis ather to defray thair chargis, furneis thame selffis of victualls, or pay thair fraucht. Siclyk it will pleis your maiestie to know that the submissioun betuix the Lindsayis and Ogilvis was subscriyvit be the lord Spynie and master of Ogilvy zesterday in our haille presence, thay being fullie aggreit of befoir, and thair ar nane that hes nocht comperit bot the laird of Kerfs Rynd, and his sone, quha for thair absence ar ordanit to be denouncit, and we haif stayit the lord of Spynie of ony taking jorney befor that that mater be fullie endit and put to ane point. In the vther directioun, anent the erles of Orknay and Caithnes, we cold do na thing in that mater, be reffoun of the absence of the ane being now in the north partis, and the vther haueing cum toward your hienes, quha, without doubt, wilbe mowit sa meikle the rather to conforme him self to that directioun, if it be mentionat thair befoir his returne. We, for our pairt, fall tak ordour, that the partie refuser to submitt falbe discharged to accompanie the queins maiestie. Sa, humblie intreating pardon for impasheing your hienes, attending vpon your maiesteis ordoure, we humblie tak our leave, committing your graces sacred persone in the tuitioun and speciall protectioun of the Almichtie God,

Your Maiesties humble and obedient  
subiectis and seruitours,

JO. PRESTOUN.

ELPHINSTOUN.

R. COKBURNE.

MONTROISS.

FYVIE.

Edinburgh, xvij May [1603?\*

\* There is no date to this letter, but the allusion to the Queen's journey to England seems to place it in the year 1603. Balfour has put it up with the letters after October 1605, thus making its date 1606; but this arrangement is clearly wrong, as Lord Fyvie, one of the council, had been created Earl of Dunfermline, 4th March 1605. The account of the depressed state of the Clan-gregor is very curious. The Highland Clans appear to have been regarded as intolerable pests by Lord Fyvie. See page 46.

## XXVIII.—LORD FYVIE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST SACRED SOUVERAINE,

Esteëming na lefs by my dewtie to empesche your hienefs daylie with frequent letters, then to omitt that quhilk may be iustlie required off me, to mak your maiestie acquent at certane tymes with all speciall heads, ather concerning your grace's estait heir, or particularlie committit to my awin chairge, I hoipe, God willing, in that to keep, fa far as I may, ane midde course, lipning alwayis maist in the moderation off your hienefs gracious minde. First, concerning that it pleased your sacred maiestie recommend unto me be your letteris, to entreate with the queens maiestie your dairest bedfallow, to think and accompt na mis in all was done be my Lord off Mar, his sone, or bedfallow, in thir accidents fallin furth laitle at Stirling; in fa far as all that they did, had sufficient warrand frome your hienefs soueraine authoritie and directioun, quhilk be guid rason, nather thay could in ony point omitt, nor onye other with saif dewtie controlle; albeit, I haue nocht before geiun your maiestie onye coumpt off my pairt in that, because, that being present with the haill counfall at the treatie off these maters at Stirling, the 24 off this instant, I thocht be the counfalls lettir, your grace micht be sufficientlie resolut off our success in that; I wald nocht the lefs farder, your hienefs war persuadit, I omitted na thing micht lye in me, to haue these maters mair foundlie compositt; and hir maiestie to think that all that was done, cariet werye guid rason with it. I past immediatlie after the refaith off your hienefs letter to Stirling, quhair first I dealt particularlie with hir maiestie als ernistlie as I could, and with all the rasons my witt micht furnis me to that entent; nixt at the meiting off the counfall, I laid doune sik grounds and arguments as I thocht meitest, to be proponit and insistit on be us all comounlie before hir maiestie to the same effect; quhilk the counfall thocht fa sufficient, that as thay concludit best we sould goe all to gither to hir maiestie to propone and rason the same, sua thay burdeinit me to be the first proponer and rasonar thairoff: I entred indeid, and beganne that purpois to hir maiestie the best I could, before your hienefs haill counfall, and was bettir followed nor I could beginne. Our ansuir and success

your grace has onderftand be your counfals lettir writtin immediatlie after. I doubt nocht bot hir maieftie confideris and onderftands fufficientlie the beft and the warft, and all the right and the wrang in that mater; bot the honour off the ending and finall compofing thairroff, as off monie greater difficulties, is referued to your hienefs wifdome, and exceiding greate dexteritie in all fuk caufis. At meiting with your maieftie, hir hienefs will think, efteme, and doe in all that, and all belangs thairto, as fall pleas your grace to direct, fignifie, or difpofe. This I onderftand to be hir maiefties minde and refolutioun. As to your maiefties aduocat's\* pairt or mine in this, albeit wee haue had that honour and directioun be your maiefties, to be as hir hienefs counfalouris, in the hail courfs off this befinis, I certifie your maieftie, wee haue bein mair fubieft to obey comandements and direftions, nor weill hard or tane with in our counfals, quhilk wee wald neiuer haue geiun bot to your maiefties contentment in the firft place, and to the fulfilling off your hienefs full will; and nixt to all quietnefs and tranquillitie, quhilk your maieftie has eiuver knawin our hail courfes to be maift addicte to, and as I am certane your facred maieftie will onderftand parfitlie at meiting with hir maieftie, quho knawis our pairts. I was at Dunfermilin quhen this fturre fell furth, and came nocht to Stirling till I was fend for be hir maieftie, being in extremitie off feiknefs and difeafe, quhilk eftait wald nocht admitt all that guid rafon might haue furnift to onye off us, to be faid to hir maieftie. Your hienefs aduocat chanced to be with hir maieftie prefent at the werie warft; be the cariage of fuim lettirs off your maiefties thair the night before your hienefs has had fufficient pruiſſ baith off his witt and guid behauour of before; at fuk ane tyme, in fuk ane accident, to fuk ane perfon, quhat could he doe or fay? His dew refpect to your maieftie, and to your obedience, behouit eiuver to haue the firft place in his minde, he was not ignorant off the great cair, and tender loue your maieftie has to hir hienefs royall perfon: to difpute or contefte quhat rafon and wifdome wald urge off hir hienefs proceidings, was bot the way to incenſe her maieftie farder againft all, and to augment hir paffion to greater parell, quhilk he was certane wald haue anoyed your

\* Sir Thomas Hamilton, afterwards Earl of Melros, which title he ſubſequently exchanged for that of Haddington.



maiestie aboue all, and might haue been iustlie imputt to lake of discretion on his pairt. All being weyt, the best expedient was to comfort and encourage hir maiestie, to gif hir guid hairt; in summe, phisick and medicine requireth then greater place, nor economic or politic. Hir maiesties passions could not be sa weill moderat and mitigat, as be seconding, following, and obeying all hir directions, quhilk alwayis was subiect and dependit haillie upon your sacred maiesties ansuirs and resolutions as oracles, to gif baith health and full resolution off all doubts and difficulties. This was his estait, this was his pairt in the perplexitie off this besiness, quhilk weill examinat be your hieness oncomparabill wifdome, I am certane will neuer engender onye preiudice to his former deseruings, and extreeme guid will to your maiesties seruice. I can nocht wyte my Lord off Mar being so hardlie tane with, finding hir maiestie sa incensit against him, by ony deseruing off his, or onye that apartenit to him, to wyte others rather nor hir royall maiestie off all proceedings. Bot the decrees of your maiesties fouerane minde will passe (I am persuadit), and go by all our pretenfis, and platts to the werye points off equetie and rason, and to the iust interpretation off all our actions. I haue forziet meself insisting sa meikil in this purpois with your maiestie, quhilk I protest has greeued me sa, that to haue all memorie off the same extinguisht and abolist, I wald be content almost to be buried thairwith meself.

Your sacred maiesties maist nobill sone, Duke Chairles, continewis (praisit be God) in guid health, guid courage, and loftie minde, althocht zit weake in bodie, is beginnand to speik fuim words, far bettir as zit off his minde and tongue, nor off his bodie and feite;\* bot I hoipe in God he fall be all weill and prencelie, wordie off your maiestie, as his grace is iugit be all werye like in lineaments to your royall perfon. Thair is ane laitt attempt fallin furth in Carrik, quhairoff I haue writtin at mair length to my L. Secretair, not willing to trubill your hieness with tedious discours of sik onpleasant purpois.

\* Charles "was exceedingly feeble in his lower parts, his legs growing not erect, but repandous and embowed, whereby he was unapt for exercises of activity. Again, he was none of the gracefulest orators, for his words came difficultly from him, which rendred him indisposed to speak much. But, in the flux of time, and when he began to look man in the face, those tender limbs began so to consolidate and knit together, as the most eminently famed for exercises of honour were forced to yield him up the garland."—Reign of King Charles. London, 1655. Folio, p. 1.

Ane thing reftis to me, quhilk I man tak the baldnes to recommend unto your maieftie, as I haue oft done off before, that is, your hienefs Seffion and College off Iuftice, the fpeciall fponk off light, and fondament off your maiefties eftait, and now the only ornament off this land. I man requeift your gracious maieftie to be cairfull off the honorabill maintenance and preferuation thairroff, for gif it decay in onye forte, I will affure your hienefs, your royall authoritie and obedience in this realme will participat off all the accidents may onye wayis befall to that faitt off iuftice: and becaufe it is now prefupponit be monye, your maieftie is to reteine thair, fuim off our numbir, in cafe fa be, and that your grace be to fupplie thair places with others, I wald your maieftie remembrit off that guid and nobill aēt, deuifit and fett doune off your hienefs awin deuyfs, for preferuation off the integritie off that houfs, that na dimiffion fould be refaut in fauorem, bot pure and fimpill, and quhen eiuier onye place fould vake in onye maner, your maieftie fould prefent at leift three off the beft qualified perfons to be tryit be the Lords, and the wordieft refaut. As this aēt was maift wyllie, and worthelie deuifit be your maieftie, fa doe I wifs it to be constantlie keipit; and as thair is na thing in that houfs obfcure or onknawin to your maieftie, the greateft eileft amangs us, I doubt nocht bot your maieftie remembris, is lake off knowlege and learning requifit to that place, quhilk I pray your maieftie, fupplie be the guid qualities off all your maieftie fall prefent in tymes to cuim. This is ane werye effential point off your maiefties croun and eftait in this realme, the integritie and worthinefs off the fubieets off that houfs and counfall, quhilk maks me the mair instant, and, parchance, importune to recommend the fame fa liberallie to your maieftie. I am paft all dew bounds in langfumnefs off my lettir to your maieftie, fa occupiet in wechtie affairs. My maift humbill and dew feruice remembrit, I will conclude this langfumnefs with earnift prayer for lang and prosperous reigne to your maieftie aboue us, and to the warldis end, and to your pofteritie. Sua reftis

Your Royall Maiefties maift humbill and  
obedient fubieēt and feruitour,

FYVIE.

Edinburgh, 30 Maij 1603.

To the Kings maift excellent Maieftie.

## XXIX.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

SIR,

Quhen, as I entir in confideratioun of this laite broyllle fallin furth heir, quhairby nocht onlye zoure maiesties contentment thair is impaireit, and thairwith zour hienes sorrow gretumelye procureit, bot also greit mater of greif is gevin to all zour liegis, that any sick accident fuld haif interuptit the full effence of our joye, zit all humane thingis being subiect to viciffitude, and mischances being often and commounlie with guide and happie successe intermixed, I wald reft fameikle the mair aggreivit heirat, if I had nocht ane full affurance, that zour maiesties patience dois alswell in this particuler, as evir it hes done heirtofoir, overwell and obscure any supposeit paffiouns; and thairwith being fully persuadeit that zour hienes acceptis this visitatioun as Goddis gentle correctioun. And now hir maiestie, praifeit be God, haveing returneit to Edinburgh, the prince and princefs being with hir in cumpanye, intending the morne to tak jorney towardis Berwick, reftis as zit vnreconceilit with the erle of Mar, quha hes maid his depairture towardis zour hines; quhais wraithe, if it be nocht appeasit, be all licklyehood is able to produce ane necessitie of ane of these consequentis, for if hir hienes will be satisfied, it is thocht that the conditioun of that nobleman, quha be his service hes fa worthelye demeinit, fall not answer to his expectatioun: And if hir hienes be refusit of amendis, complayneing of hir conceavit offence, na doubt the vttering of hir discontentments will breid small pleasure to zour maiestie. Bot leift hir hienes wraithe continewing, fuld heirefter produce unexpectit thortures, I wald maist humble entreat zour maiestie to prevent the same, according to that prudent foirsicht that hes evir heirtofoir kytheit in zoure former proceedingis, and suffer not this canker or corruptioun to haif any forder progress. Thair is ane laite mater fallin furthe in Carrick, the particulars quhairof remitting to the secretaris informatioun, quha, at tyme convenient, will acquaynte zour maiestie thair-

with; the counsell heir hes proceedit be chairge and proclamatioun of the accuſtimat forme, zit if thair be nocht force adjoyned to your directiouns, thair may ſmall obedience be luiked for, at the handis of theſe quha hes bein heirtofoir, and as zit remaynis outlawis. In this and ſindrie vther thingis, for feir of impaſching your maieſtie, I haif written at lenth to the ſecretair, quha will impairt the ſame as oportunitie fall ſerve. And ſa, humble taking my leave, I pray the almightie God to accompt your maieſtie the apple of his awin eie.

Your Maieſties maiſt humble and obedient  
ſubieſt and ſeruitour,

MONTROISS.

Edinburgh, 1 Junij 1603.

To his Maieſtie.

XXX.—EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.  
20 NOVEMBER 1604.

PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

Being informed that your maieſtie is offendit with ſik of the nobilitie as mett in the Inche of St Johnneſtoun, at the laſt parliament, to adwyſe by quhat meanes the chairges of ſik as was choſen commiſſioners mycht be defrayit, I moſt humble cawe your maieſtie pardoun to purge my pairt of any miſbehaviour viſit att that tyme, ather againſt this happie vnion, or ony vther your maieſties intention: for in credite I perſault na difference amangis all your maieſties ſubieſtis thair conuenit, bot ane erriſt intention in ewery way, vtering their weil affected hairtes to your maieſties ſeruice in the vnion: controuerſie ſtanding onlie concerning the taxation, quhairin the gritteſt number of the nobilitie feiring that the

brunt thair of should breid ane misflyking of the vnion amanges the commouns, quha, at na tyme, without regrait, ar inducit to any taxation, choifit rather to ferwe your maiestie vpoun thair awin chairges than call in dowbt your maiesties dissein, be imposing vpoun the commouns ane grit taxation, without the quhilk the commissiouners could nocht haue beine honourable outred: and if any man do vtherwyse informe your maiestie, thay do finistroufly traduce your maiesties best affectionatt subiectes. Your maiestie hes to vey in this our affectiouns vnto your maiesties service, nochte crediting calumnies of vnfriends, the simple treuth being (in conscience) this quhilk I wryt to your maiestie so far as come to my knowlege. Quharefore, I beseech your maiestie nocht to condeme me, *indicta causa*, nor to think any vtherwyse of me, bot as of ane of your maiesties most loyallie affected subiectes, quha, by my general allegiance, doth acknowledge myself, in particular, manywyfs dett-bound to your maiesties fauorable clemencie in sik sort, that there is, nor can be, nothing more grevous to me than to vnderstand myself to be anywayse ecarted fra your maiesties favor, especially it being my grittest contentment on earth to be thocht of your sacred maiestie as I am, and fall alwayes continew,

Your Maiesties most humble and obedient  
subiect,

ERLL OF ANGUS.\*

Tomthalloun, 20 November 1604.

\* William tenth Earl of Angus. His adherence to Popery induced him to join with the Earls of Huntly and Errol for the purpose of obtaining the assistance of the Spanish King to re-establish the Roman Catholic religion in Scotland. He was seized and committed to the Castle of Edinburgh, 1st January 1593, but made his escape on 15th February to the north, where he joined the other two noblemen. Latterly he made up matters at court, but finding his religious opinions peculiarly obnoxious to the clergy, he left Scotland and retired to France. He died at Paris on the 3d of March 1611, in the 57th year of his age, and was buried in the Church of St Germain de Prez, where there is a magnificent monument to his memory. In the inscription on his tomb he is made to say—"Vixi cum virtute et in spatiis me exercui maximarum laudum:

## XXXI.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY\* TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS 3OUR MOST EXCELLENT, MOST MIGHTIE, AND  
IMPERIAL MAIESTIE,

To excus my baldnefs in taking this occafion to giue 3our moft excellent maieftie maift humbill thankis, for the lettres quhilk it hes plefit 3our michtie maieftie to wreit in my fauours to the confell heir, and miniftrie, to keip me from excommunication, quharby I reft euer mair and mair det-bound in all humilitie and affectioun to ferue 3our moft excellent maieftie; zit I find the miniftrie heir the mair malicious againis me, the mair 3our moft michtie maieftie wreittis in my fauours, for they haue prefentlie fummonit me to Abirdein to the fecond day of Januar, mening that day to proceid againis me and my uyf, not regairding 3our moft excellent maieftis will, and thay ar plainlie boith fafting and preiching maliciuflie againis the union of the kingdomes, quairby 3our moft michtie maieftie may judge thair mening, quhill of affectioun and deuetic I am bound not to confeill the famin from 3our moft excellent maieftie, and gif I haid that honour as to kis 3our moft michtie maieftis hand, I culd inform mair amplie of thair euill and feditious mening: aluays for my auin pairt, I haue my onlie refuge to befeik 3our moft excellent maieftie to exime me, my wyf and familie, from thaeme altogidder, for ane 3eir,

ut in sanctissima atavorum religione in Deum: Obsequio in Regem: Amore in Patriam: Charitate erga meos: Bonitate in omnes, nemini cederem. Ne qui primus eram regni Scotorum Comes, et in bellis primæ Dux aciei, uspiam forem in secundis. Hinc omnia tam pro voto fauste, ut in sacris et civilibus morem majorum retinuerim: et jussus religionis causa, patria excedere aut in custodiam pergere, vitæ quietiori turbinibus averruncandis delegerim Galliam, caram alteram Scotis patriam: mihi vero carissimam, quod in ea, pro ea, meos meminerim majores, bellica claros gloria, res gessisse maximas: et pro meritis factisque fortibus sic iis relatam gratiam, ut Ducatu ornarentur Turonensi." A copy of this inscription is given in the Scots Magazine for March 1767, p. 118.

\* George sixth Earl, and first Marquis of Huntly,

till your most mightie maiestie sattill the Union, and sum richt reull unto thaeme, or than I wilbe forsit to us my licens, and my self, uyf and familie to leiuie the contrey, quhilk I will do, befor I be offensiue unto your most mightie maiestie in onie point; beseiking your most excellent maiestie to put me to sum solid stand, that I may be quit of thair cummer; for gif your most mightie maiestie friis me not from thair iurisdiction, I man quit the contrey, rather nor be daylie trublit as I am presentlie.

I onderstand alsua, be ane lettre quhilk I haue refaut from my lord of Bamirrinou, that your most excellent maiestie uas zit sumquhat commuuit againis me for my proceidings in Perth, the tyme of the Parlement.\* I uill protest befor God, that I did nathing thair, that I thocht suld haue beine offensiue unto your most mightie maiestie, aluayis gif your most excellent maiestie thinkis that I haue offendit in onie fort, I will maist humblie amend the same, sua far as my simple pouar may extend; for sen I haue euer esteimit my gretest uordlie felicitie, to depend upon your most mightie maiestis fauour and gud continains, God forbid that I suld los it be my auin doing, quhilk neuer salbe uillinglie; and gif your most excellent maiestie thinkis that I haue raclestie failit, I will maist humblie and uillinglie mend. Heirfor, I uill beseik your most mightie maiestie to us me as ane, quha, in all humilitie, is halelie disposit neuer to be ane contradictour, bot altogidder ane follouar of your most excellent maiestis uill, as I haue euer beine heirtofor, and remits me halelie to your most mightie maiestis auin uifdom and memorie, to judge me quhat I haue beine. And gif it will pleis your most excellent maiestie to grant me that fauour, as I may haue the honour to kis your most mightie maiestis hand, I uill think myself the mair happie, not for onie suit I haue to impech your most excellent maiestie uith, bot onlie to haue it seine, that I haue not losit your most mightie maiestis fauour and good continans, quhilk I will euer prefer to all uthir benefit: Sua, craiuing humbill pardon for my lang lettre, and expecting your most excellent maiestis uill and anfuier, efter the kissing maist humblie of your most mightie maiestis hand, I uill tak my leiuie, praying the eternall God to preferue your most

\* See preceding letter from the Earl of Angus to the King.

excellent, most michtie, and imperiall maiestie, in lang lyfe and maist prosperous reinge.

Your most excellent and michtie Maiestis  
humble subiect, and most affectionat  
feruitour to the deith,

HUNTLYE.

Huntlye, this 20 of Nouember.

To his most excellent, most michtie, and  
imperiall Maiestie, King of Great Brit-  
taine, France, and Irland.

[*Indorsed.*]

Erle Huntley. 10 December 1604.

XXXII.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

MOIST GRATIOUS AND EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

Althocht the parting frome my natiue foyll, frome my estait, hous, and familie, bot moir than all of thame, the want of your maiesteis gracious prefence, be unto me ane just caus of exceiding greiff and forrow, zit the testimonie of ane guid conscience in all dewtie towards your maiestie, and my innocencie of ony capitall cryme, ar confortis to me, that this your maiesteis commandiment is nocht so muche of ony just conceiuit malice at my persone, as of intendit chasteiment for my conuersioun to the religioun presentlie establisht, quhairof your maiestie may be easlie persuadit, I wald most glaidlie condiscend unto for findrie respectis lang to wryte, gif I culd have thairto ony warrant of conscience. Bot this being improper to this present subiect I omit the same, and haue resoluut nocht onlie in this poynt, bot in quhatsumeuer ells your maiestie will com-



mand with the hazard of lyffe (my conscience being exceptit) to undergo all perell may geue your maiestie contentment and just tryal of my obedience. And quhairas I vnderstand of your maiesties plefour for staving of my secund sone,\* now in Spaine, with me, the boy being subiect to ane uniuersall gute, and I being counsellit be phisicians to send him to the baictis in Loren, I will humlie entreate your maiesteis gracious fauor that he may go with me for recouerie of his health, and I will heirby promeis, upone the leift signification of your maiesteis guid plefor, to retorne him bak to be disposit upoune as your maiestie thinks moit fite. Sir, howfoever my religioun be the caus of my exyle frome your maiesteis presence, zit so far haue I bene heirtfoir, and ever wilbe, frome geving any pairt of your maiesteis foueraintie to the pope, as I hald my self iustlie bound in conscience to mantene the authoritie thair of agais quhatsum-ever commandimentis he can or may give out in the contrair; and in testimonie heirof, I have gevin my aith of allegiance, quhilk I vnderstand to be scairlie allowit of sum of the preceiser fort and vrgeris of this hard cours agais me, and it will try that, gif thai war burdenit thair of, that thai wald ather maik ane direct denyell, or than maik sic constructions thair of as will nocht stand with your maiesteis lyking. So, rewising I have atteint the favour that this letter may twich that princelie hand I wes so desyr-ous to kifs, I moit humlie taik my leiff, praying God to give your ma-iestie lang and prosperous reigne, intending to leiff and die

Your Maisteis moit humill and faithfull  
subiect,

ERLL OF ANGUS.

To his sacride and moit gracious Maiestie.†

\* According to Wood's edition of Douglas's Peerage, this second son was James afterwards Lord Mordington. The same writer calls the Earl's second daughter Margaret; but in the monumental inscription, alluded to in the note, p. 60, she is called Elizabeth.

† There is no date to this letter. From the want of internal evidence to fix the period when it was written, it was not deemed expedient to alter Sir James Balfour's arrangement, farther than to place it at the end of the letters for 1604.

## XXXIII.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

PLESE IT 3OUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

At a meitting of the counfall vpoun the laft of Januar, we had befoir ws the Marques of Huntley, and the minifters of the prefbiterie of Aberdene, anent the proces of excommunicatioun, intendit be thame againis him, quhairin, efter a litle conteftatioun, thay ar be mutuall confent drawin to fome conformitie for the prefentt: 3it becaus at this prefentt dyett, that mattir could not reffau a finall determinatioun, we haue continewit the fame to the firft of May nixttocome, to the effect, that in this meanetyme, 3our maieftie may be acquentit, alfuereill be the marques himfelf as be the faid prefbiterie, of euery particular circumftance in that turne. And feing the faid marques is myndet fchortlie to repair to 3our maieftie, quha, we doubt not, will mak a relatioun to 3our maieftie of all that hes procedit in this mater, we will lykwayis in all reuerence, fubmiffioun, and humilitie, requeift 3our facred maieftie to grant accels and audience to fic of the faid prefbiterie, as falbe fufficientlie inftructed and authorifed from thair brethrene, quhairthrow, eftir hering of baith pairteis, 3our maieftie may be the better refolued thairin, and accordinglylie gif 3our directioun to ws, quhilk falbe profequuted and followed oute. And fua, in all reuerence, fubmiffioun, and humilitie, kiffing 3our facred handis, we pray God to grant vnto 3our facred maieftie a long, happy, and prosperous regne. Frome 3our maiefteis burgh of Edinburgh, the firft of Februar 1605.

3our Maiefteis maift humble and obedient  
fubiefts and feruitours,

NEUBOTTLE.  
HALYRUIDHOUS.  
TRAKQUAIR.

QUHITTINGHAME.  
R. COKBURNE.  
JO. PRESTOUN.

To the Kingis moft excellent Maieftie.

## XXXIV.—LORD BALMERINO TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEAS 3OUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

The estats of this 3our maiesteis realme, affembled the 6 of Junij, with great frequence of nobilmen, prelats, commiissionars of small barrones and burrowis, in sik nombre as the danger of the plague, quhilk was in all the cuntrey about, was no impediment, but th' affemblye was more frequent, nor 3our maiestie has seen many parliaments, of quhome althocht many had thair awin particuler discontentements, zit thair reuerence to 3our maiesteis auctoritie was sik, as no apperance of any disturbance was utterit in all thair metingis. 3our maiesteis lettre was first red, conteyning both the commandement of the meting, and directioun of the materis to be entreated, wherewith all men was so weill pleafed, as after thay had caufed reid the same over and over agane, the maist of tham behoved to haif doubillis of it for thair bettir satisfiactioun, remembering with no litill ernistnes thair most humble thankis to 3our sacred maiestie, and most harty wishe for 3our maiesteis long and prosperous raigne.

Relatioun was thaireftir very gravelie and eloquently made by the chancellor of all the commiissionars proceedingis during the treatie, and satisfiactioun gevin to every man quho had any scrupule. Sum litel instance was made by sum of the most curious for publicatioun, and copeis of the principall, quhilk was refused. In all the report, the chancellor omitted not 3our maiesteis most loving and princelie cair of this 3our poore cuntrey, quhilk gave no litil confort to all the affistants, in sik fort as many quho came thair exasperated upon calumneis and misreports befor, departed in end weill satisfiied.

Divers thinges war motioned concerning the estate of the cuntrey, but generallie this ground was held by the maist part, that a conventioun might not medle with any thing that appearit to derogat, till ane act of parliament, or wherof, the establisshing requyred the autoritie of a parliament: sua all materis of moment was remitted to the next sessioun of the parliament, to begin the 26 of November approaching.

The names of sik as war present, with the materis that war agreit unto, ar heirwith sent to be confidderit of by 3our maiestie.

These of the counfall, bishoppis, and commiffionaris, as your maiestie hes committed the bishoppis erands unto, ar to meitt the morne to resolve anent the nixt conventioun, and the names of thame that falbe wretin for.

Tuyfday the ii. of this instant is appoynted for voyding this proces betuix the Marquis of Huntly and Mr Johne Forbes, and ending the agreance betuix the Lord Maxwell and Johnstoun.

If it pleas God in his mercy, that we may be frie of the plague, we hoop that nather in the adminiftration, nor executioun of iustice, nor in the hole cours of the policie of the cuntrey, your maiestie fall heir any thing, but that wherwith your maiestie falbe weill pleased; and if it fall pleas your maiestie to performe that royall promiseis, quhilk your maieftis loving subiects heir of all rankis ernistly wifhes, and affuredlie lookis for, to honour and felicitate this your native kingdome with your princelie prefens, that your maiestie fall find the Bordouris, Hilands and Yles, in fik a frame of peax and policie, the rest of the cuntrey in that wealth and stedfast obedience, that in mannis opinioun evir could have beene expected. These ar the fruits of your maieftis heroique labouris, quhill your maiestie was amangis us, daily encreffing by your maieftis grave and wyis commandements; wherin our greitest reioyfung is, that we hoop affuredlie your maiestie will not difdane to fie with your facred eyis this new face of your ancienne kingdome, ftryving in vertuous emulation with any natioun quhatfoevir.

Thus humblie craving your maieftis pardon for my prefumptioun, I end with my continuell prayeris for your facred maieftis eternell felicitie. From your maieftis Pallice of Halyruidhous, in fum mesfour renewit as the rest of the cuntrey, this 9 of Junij 1605.

Your Maieftis most humble and  
obedient fervant,

J. BALMERINOC.\*

\* Sir James Elphinstone, third son of Robert Lord Elphinstone, was created by James Lord Balmerinoch. He was particularly favoured by his majesty, from whom, according to Scotstarvet, "he craved the reversion of Secretary Cecil's place, at the King's coming to the crown of Eng-

## XXXV.—LORD FYVIE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST GRACIOUS AND SACRED SOUERAINE,

Being arrivit heir within this twa dayis, I could nocht bot think it requisit, and alwayis my dewtie, to gif your sacred maiestie fuim accompt off the estait off this your ancient kingdome, and zit because I onderstand and knawis the same, is maist parfytlie and exactlie writtin unto your hienefs be my Lord Balmerinoch your secretair, like as I haue also writtin all the speciall particulars to my Lord Barwike,\* to be declarit unto your sacred maiestie: Fearing I sould trubill your hienefs with doubill repetitioun off fashious and tedious purpoifs, I will tak the bauldnefs for the maist pairt, to raport me to my Lord off Balmerinochis lettirs, and to my Lord of Barwikis informatioun to your gracious hienefs, off sik as I haue writtin to him. I haue found the counfall and fessioun sittand in this toun, and the estait off the toun (thanks to God) rafonabill, guid, and free off siknefs or contagion, albeit nocht without fuim remainis off suspicioun, and fuim leitill new infections spreiding about, quhilk be Godis grace and magiftratis diligence I hoipe fall be helpit. The morne is the day apointit for creatioun off the earlis be your maiesties

land, which was the beginning of his overthrow; for the said Secretary Cecil wrought so, that having procured a letter which had come from King James, wherein he promised all kindness to the Roman See and Pope if his holiness would assist him to attain to the crown of England.—This letter the said Secretary Cecil showed in the King's presence, in the Council of England; whereupon King James, fearing to displease the English nation, behoved to disclaim the penning of this letter, and lay the blame thereof on his Secretary, whom, a little before that, he had made Lord Balmerino." p. 59. His Lordship confessed that he had transmitted the letter without his majesty's knowledge. He was sent to Scotland, brought to trial, and condemned to lose his head. The sentence was, however, not carried into execution; for, as the scandalous chronicler before quoted informs us, "he got liberty to go to his own house of Balmerino, where, being a widower, he got an amatorious potion of cantharides from a maid in his house called Young (thereafter wife to Dr Honeyman), of which he died," in anno 1612.—*Staggering State*, p. 61.

\* George Home (subsequent Earl of Dunbar), created by James VI. Lord Home of Berwick, 7th July 1604.

ordonance, thair is rasonabill noumbir off nobill men conueinit to the same effect. We ar to aduysse with thame that ar heir, quhat tyme fall be meitest to be apointed for the conuentioun. My Lord Maxuell is also to be this oulk before the counfall with his freindis, for to onderlye the lordis ordonance, and 3our sacred hienes commandement in this languime feade betuix him and the Jhonstons. The greatest pleyars now in the Towbuith off this toun ar Jhonstons and Maxuellis, ane werye great and guid noueltie. The kirk materis gois rasonable weill, according to the directions off 3our sacred maiesties wifdom, as I haue wrettin mair at lenth to my Lord Barwike. The Laird off Lawreston attendis diligentlie, and obeyis resolutlie 3our hienes commandements in these maters. Thus maist humbly taking my leive for the present, praying the eternall God lang to keip and preferue to us 3our sacred maiestie, and 3our other half, with all 3our royall progenie, I rest

3our sacred Maiesties maist humbill and  
affectionat subiect and feruitour,

FYVIE.

Edinbrough, 3 Marche 1605.

To the King his maist excellent Maiestie.

#### XXXVI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

I have noe farder occasioun to vryte vnto your maiestie at this tyme, bot to acquaint your hienes with ane lytill accident fell furthe of laite befor the Secreit Counfall, the lyke whereoff hes nocht bene oft feyne in that faite of judgement.

Ane called Alexander Cheyne was perfewed be a poore man dwelling vnder my Lord Glames in Angoufs, that he had cum violentlie in the night vppon him in his hous, brocken ane battoun vppon him and his wyfe in thair bedd, and belted the poore man him felff with ane swoord belt, efter he had pulled him out of his bedd: The pairteis compered,—the defendar denyed maift constantlie the deid; the witneffes was nayne other bot twa of the faidis defendars awin ferwands, and fome of my Lord Glames men, who could nocht be refaued witneffis, nocht onlye becaus thai war all as pairteis thame felffis (in refpect thai war all night-bours of the toun, and affited the poore man to the perfuite), bot also in refpect of fead and blood ftandand betuix the faid Alexander Cheyne and the Lord Glames, albeit the Lord Glames affited nawayes the perfewte, nor came nocht to this toun, nor nayne for his lordship. This made the offender foe bauld, that he feared nocht to faice the counfall, thinking the mater could nocht be provin againes him, being noe witneffis, bot his awin ferwands, whoe war actours with him in the wrong. Alwayes the counfall examined his two ferwandis feverallie; and albeit at the begynning thay manfweir the deid; nochttheles, be divers interrogatories, admonitiounes, terrors, and warieteis in thair depositions, at laft the weritie was exprest out of thame. Whilk being gottin, and the haill maner of the fact difcovered to the lordis, we called in the faid Alexander Cheyne, principall doar, and efter he was fworne vppon his knees (lykas we made him to fitt on his knees the haill tyme of his deposition, to remember him the bettir of his dewtie), being admonifhed of the greivoufnes off perjurie, whilk was far abowe the offence he was challenged wpon, nochtwithftanding he aboade fliff and ftubborne at his denyall, and condampned himfelffe to all moſte rigorus deathe and executioun, gif anye ſic thing war; lipining certanlye in his ſuborned ſervands and pertakers, and in the platts layd amonges thame, concerning the denyall,

O cœca nocentium  
Conſilia.

Till at laſt, be confronting of him perſonallie with the faidis witneffis, his ſervands, and pertakers, he was conſtrayned to acknowledge and grant

the haill weritie, with great repentance (albeit too laite); and declaired the haill circumstances of the deid, subornation of the witneffis, and plat layde amongs thame, what ewirie ane of thame sould faye. The counfall committed thame all instantlie in the iustice hands, and ordanyed thame to be put the morne eftir to ane tryall upon thair depositions; and being conuict, the said Alexander Cheyne, principall actor, for his perjury and subornation of the witneffes, in soe fowll ane fact and oppression, to be headed. The ane of his witneffes and serwands, whose wilfullie and stubbornelie aboade be his falshood, till he was constrained be the discowerie of his marrow to grant the weritie, to be handged, and the other wha first granted the weritie, and gaife greit light to the tryall of the haill action, to be scurged allanerlye, and his lyfe saiffe. I hope your maiestie shall werye weele allow of our proceedings in this, for soe does all good men, and thinks that this shall be ane great terrour to all malefactours. I assure your maiestie, the counfall tuke great paynes in tryall of this mater, and your hienes aduocat was als strait and quicke as onye man could be. Of all riotts or wrongs that hes cum befor the counsell since my haymecumming, thair hes bene summar and present cognitioun tayne, and instant pwnishment be wairding and fines. Thair is ane laite accident fallin furthe betuix the Maxuells and Jhonstouns, about the hous of Newbie, and ane Jhonstoun slayne, or at least deadlye hurt. With all diligence we haif directed thair ane companye of the gaird, with ane herauld, to tak the hous, to chardge baithe the parteis befor the counfall, and to prevene anye farder inconvenient. Swa, maist humblie taking my leife, praying the eternall God to continew your hienes in all healthe and happines, long to raigne over ws, I rest

Your sacred Majesteis most humbill and  
loyall subiect and servitor,

AL. DUNFERMELING.

Edinburgh, 23 Martij 1605.

To the Kingis most excellent Majestie.



## XXXVII.—EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

MAIST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

I reffaued your gracious maiefteis letters from the Marqueis of Huntlie the 4 day of this instant monethe, the whilk daye the faid mar-queis arraywed firft to this town, prefented himfelfe to your maiefties counfall, offered and promefed thair all dew obedience, as ewer he fhould be chardged or fend for. All the wyfeft of this land, be great trawell and lang adwyfement, could nocht haif dewyfed anye thing fwa proffit-able for the eftabliſhement of your honor, obedience, peace, and good gouvernement off this countrie, as your hienes graive, wyfe, and circum-ſpect behaviour and vſage towardes the faid Lord Marqueis, at his laſt woyadge thair hes done; your maiefteis wiſdome, alwayes great, in this hes bene admirable, with the gentle correctioun of ane, your hienes hes teatched to all the reſt thair dewtie, and that foe fenſible, as I believe, for this lang whylle, thair ſhall nayne fall in ſic ourfight, and he and all the reſt ſhall beir the greater reverence and reſpect vnto your maiefteis authoritie, and to ſic as your hienes committes the adminiſtratioun off your affaires in this kingdome. I hawe alſo ſenſyne reffaued ane other letter of your maiefteis from Mr Jhone Forbes, miniſter, according to the directioun whereoff, thair ſhall be lettirs ſchortlye directed from the counfall, for my Lord the Marqueis of Huntlye, and ſome commiſſioners of the miniſterie of that countrie, to trye the veritie of thais ſpeitches. At thair comperance, your ſacred maieſtie maiſt raſonabill and wyfe com-mandements, contened in the faid letter, ſhall be followed in all, and your hienes immediatlie efter adwertefed of the ſucces of that proceſs. The counfall hes nocht thocht meitt to call the Marqueis of Huntlye befor the tyme of the conwentioun, whilk will be in the begynning of June nixt, becauſe it wald haif bene verye troubleſome to him, within ſwa ſhort ſpace, to mak twyfe that woyadge, being bot laitlie returned from your maieſtie. The hail eſtaite of your maieſties affaires in this cuntrie goes

(thanks to God) werye weell, and all is in great quyetnes and obedience. Your sacred maiestie may be affured, giff thair war onye smallest aperance off anye stur, malcontentment, or anye maner of noveltie, we wald nocht fpair to caus the poastes ryde thithar, and I wald offer take the bauldnes to truble your maiestie with my letters, whilk I am otherwyse laithe to doe, without some relewant and good occasioun. Onye other particulars requisite to be remembered vnto your gracious hienes in your affaires heir, I wryte mair particularlye to my Lord of Barwicke, to be communicate wnto your hienes, as your lasur may best ferwe: for we haiff thir twa dayes kepted counfall in this toun, where befyde all other particulars, we haiff putt my Lord Maxwell to some point in his feade, and hes tayne some resolutions with my Lord Ergylle, concerning the persute of the M<sup>c</sup>Gregoures, whilkes haill proceidingis I haiff written mair particularlye to my Lord of Barwick, to be impaired to your sacred maiestie. The dewyfe, whilk proceedit from your maiesteis onye wifdome of the mutuall commissiouns and commiffioners vpon the Borders proceeds (thanks to God) werye weell, and takis ane werye good successe, to the great quyetnes and contentment of the haill countrie. I pray your maiestie excufe me, that I dare be fwa bauld, as to recommend vnto your gracious hienes good favour and countenance, your awin creature the Erle of Home; as I did personallie, when I had last honour to kifs your hienes hand; for I heir, that he and all his kyithes als great obedience and willingnes in seruice as ony in that countrie. Swa, praying the eternall God long to continew your hienes in all prosperitie, and daylie to augment your grandeur, I rest

Your sacred Maiesties maift humbill and  
obedient subiect and seruitour,

AL. DUNFERMELING.

Edinburcht, 20 Aprilis 1605.

To the King his moste excellent Maiestie.

## XXXVIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

JUNE 22, 1605.

**MOST SACRED SOUVERAYNE,**

As it is the cheif and principall point off his dewtie, wha hes the honour to beare charge in the Cowmounwealthe, to be ewer vigilant and cairfull in paines taking for dew administratioun thairroff, fo the profitable actiounes of ane magistrat did ewer mereit and rapport ane heichar commendatioun, than ather good speitches, or tymous wrytts, howbeit, that baithe the ane and the other ar na lefs profitable than neccesar, and caryes with thame eche one thair awin prayse. The consideratioun wheroff (most sacred souerayne), as it hes ewer mowed me to preifs and indevoir myselfe, rather to do than to say weelle, and to be mair ernest in doing than busie in writting; sa now, lykwayes, it furneiffes me baldnes and reason to excuse myselfe at your maiesteis handis, gif, perhaps I hawe ather feymit, or heirefter may appeir to your maiestie, to be to flaw in vritting, or sending adwerteifmentis off all particulars; albeit in this fame, I hope nawayes to be sa fleuthfull as to neglect that dewtie, whilk tyme and occasioun may require. As now at this present, nochtwithstanding I have thoght it neidfull to adwerteis and acquent your sacred maiestie with this lait uproir and tumult, whilk hes fallin out betuix the Lairdes of Edzell and Pittarro;\* newirtheles, the mair ample and particulier recit off all particulier circumstances thairroff, I will remitt to my Lord Secretaries declaration, wha hes, I am certaine, vrittin the fame, at great lenthe, to your sacred maiestie. Swa I hawe this onlye to schaw your maiestie, that, in generall, the estaite of this land is futche (prayed be God), to your maiesteis great gloir and immortal fame, and to the assured weill and joy off your maiesteis subiects, that almaist we may rather wische and desyre the conservation and standing thairroff, than any heichar perfection, or farder increafs of the famyne. Seing that, in plaice of the heiche contempt of your maiesteis lawes, of the proud

\* In the High Street of Edinburgh. The fight lasted from nine at night till almost two in the morning. Several of the combatants were hurt, but only one man killed.

rebellioun, and maisterfull opprefioun, whilk was wount to regne in thir partes, thair is nathing now (at leift generalie) bot a fatled and quyett forme of doing, eche one peciable in his awin eftait, awaiting for iustice, and redie to obey your maiefties lawes, and all prayfing and admiring, in thair awin felicitie, your maiefties good and happie government; for the continewance and furderance whereoff, I fall labour, God willing, for my pairt, to doe all that ather the honour of my chairge requyres, or my dewtie bindes me, or my awin maift bent and willing affectioun to your maiefties ferwice preiffes me to, or in end, whatfumeuer your sacred maiefties preconced favorable opinion, may expect of me. Sua, praying the eternall God lang to manteyne and preferue your sacred maieftie in all prosperitie, maift humblie taking my leiwe, I rest

Your sacred Maiefties maift humbill and  
obedient subiect and feruitour,

AL. DUNFERMELING.

Edinburcht, 22 Junij 1605.

To the King his excellent Maieftie.

XXXIX.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 29, 1605.

MY MOST GRATIOUS, SUEIT, SACRED SOUERANGNE,

However I am fumquhat to laite in congratulating of your maiefties laite happie delyuerie,\* zit I hoip the place of my abode being remote fra the ordinarye arryuell of aduerteifments, and the inhabilitie of my bodie being the onlie stay of my nocht prefence at that laft confell day, will procure your maiefties most gracious pardoun for my abfence at that tyme, haueing fince the firft report of this mater euer wifched myfelfe (if fo, as praied be God of the contrare, that deuilifche intencion had takin effect), to haue bein thair alfo, to haue maid ane periode

\* From the conspiracy commonly called the Gun Powder Plot.

of my dayis, thair being nothing that culd haue bene expectit be my surueuing, bot worse than a thousand deathis. And thairfoir, vpon consideration of this hynous intendit treason (quherof the interpryfers, no doubt, ar verie deuillis incarnate by conceptioun), far surpaffing not onlie all former actis or intentiounes ever since the creatioun, and skairfe cumming within the compas to be credited or beleived, that fuche a thing so voyde of all humanetie culd haue takin place, in any person possessit with reasoun, and feing thir aduancers (not of any relligioun, as they surmyse, bot of the deuillis awin kingdome) hes cleirlye discouered thair correspondance with Belzebub, the head of thair churche, I am thairfoir most humblie to entraite your maiestie, to haue a more warye circumspetioun over fuche lyk pepile, who, vpon pretence of thair zeale to aduance thair relligioun, gois about fuche diabolically practises, that, by your maiesteis suorde of justice, they may be dispatched for Goddis eternall iugement, to thair proper hie temple, the bottomles pit of hell, the attaining quherof they haue so greidalie and haserdoullie focht. And as it is no small confort and mater of ioye vntoo all your good subiectis heir, that your hienes hes the happie benefeite of so good, wyse, and weill effectit consellers thair, quhoise cairfull diligence in the tryell of this actioun hes gevin so good a prooffe of thair deutefull affectioun, so euerey one of ws wald humblie beseik your maiestie, by thair adwyse and confell, to foirfie al possibill meanes for preventioun of sik lyk heirefter, and to tak sik ordour, that fuche malignant spreittis, in humane schape, may not haue the benefeite of braithing within your dominiounes, bot may be secludit fra all possibiletie to go about any fuche erand heirefter. And with randerung thanks to God for his many former, and this laite mercie extendit towardis your maiesties, with prayer also for continuance of his protectioun over your heignefs, I humblie kifs your sacred hand, resting

Your Maiesteis humble and obedient  
subiect and seruitour to death,

MONTROISS.

Halyrudhous, the 29 of November 1605.

To his most sacred Maiestie.

## XL.—THE EARL OF ERROL TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 21, 1606.

SIR,

It may pleis your maift excellent maieftie, according to the command of your hienes letters, quhilks come to my hands zifterday, I falbe cairfull to prowye ane terfel to the halk of Fowlisheuch,\* and falbe anfuerable to your maieftie for the fame, in cais the auld terfel be dead: your maiefties Mangrell falcone, quhilk I haif, fowld haif bein at your hienes lang or now, bot that as my falconer was reddie to tak his jorney, thie contractit ane difeafs, quhairwith he durft not adwentewr to trawell hir, in refpect of the great frofts and ftormes. I wilbe anfwerable to your maieftie, that thie has bein nawayes ftrefsit, bot als weill treatit as any halk cowlde be: Nather fall your maieftie fufpect that I haif retenit hir for my awn pleffour, quhilk I fall newir compair in the greateft thing quhatfoewer with your maiefties meaneft contentment, or am I able as zit, ewin at this prefent, to trawell wpoun the feilds for any game. Alwayes how foin it falbe poffible that the halk may in any fort be trawellit, thie falbe at your maieftie with all diligence. She haid the fame feiknes the laft zeir, in this fame feafone, and was not frie of it quhill neir Mairche.

And thus not prefwming to be farther fafhions to your hienes, bot in

\* Foulshuch is a steep rock on the eastern coast of Scotland, about three or four miles to the westward of Stonehaven. It is nearly a quarter of a mile in length, and the height from the sea, which washes the base of it, is upwards of two hundred feet. A writer in the *Scots Magazine* (July 1808) says, "The rock, and the birds which lodge on it, are considered the property of the proprietor of the neighbouring estate, who lets them for a considerable sum of yearly rent to a tenant, who is called the heughman, and who is obliged annually to give the landlord a young hawk, from a nest of these birds, of an uncommonly large size, which builds in the rock regularly every year." From this extract it would appear that the particular breed of hawks so much esteemed by James VI. exists, or at least recently existed, at Foulshuch.

all hwmilitie attending zowr maiesties farther commandements, in kiffing  
zowr royall hands I tak leif, and reftis ewer

Zowr Maiesties maift luifing and faithfull  
fubiect, and howmill ferwand,

ERROL.

Perth, this 21 Januar 1606.

To the King his maift excellent Maieftie.

XLI.—THE EARL OF MAR TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 21, 1606.

MAY IT PLEIS ZOUR MAIESTIE,

According to zour direction anentt the terfall \* of Foullfheuch, I fhall obey zour commandimentt fullie and in all points. I can nott, as zitt, certefy zour maieftie quhither he be alyue or nott, bott vithin few days, I think, I fhall go neir to gett the certintie may be had of fo oncertan a mater. I haiue fpokkon my Lord Marfchall, quha fays to me, he thinks he be alyf, zitt vpon this I dar not affeure zour maieftie, bott

\* Tercel or tiercel, "a male hawk, so called because it is a third part less than the female in bigness and strength." Phillips' *Moderne World of Words*. 1696. Folio. Gervase Markham terms hawking "a most princely and serious delight;" and in enumerating the different kinds of hawks, he divides them into long-winged and short-winged. Among the latter he includes the goshawk, and the *tercel* of the goshawk; and subsequently mentions, that the goshawk and tercel were used for flying at the partridge, pheasant, or hare. *Countrey Contentments*. London, 1615, p. 87. Lord Binning, whose premature death deprived the world of a most worthy and accomplished man, wrote a very humorous and clever ballad, entitled "The Jolly Hawk and the Tearsal," on the temporary loss of a favourite tercel belonging to his father, the Earl of Haddington, which had flown away to the Bass, but was afterwards discovered.

vill fend ain of my auin,\* and shall leive naithing ondoun in that or any other thing 3our maieftie plefis to command me; fua, maift humblie kiffing 3our facred hands, I euer reft

3our Maieftis houmbill feruantt,

A. MAR.†

Edinburgh, the xxi of Januar 1606.

To the Kingis moft excellent Maieftie.

\* The passion of James for hawking is well known; and that he was somewhat anxious to appropriate the best hawks of his subjects, is evinced by the following letter from him to Sir Alexander Fraser of Philorth, reprinted from the Literary Register for March 1823, 4to, a periodical work that has long since ceased to exist, and the numbers of which are somewhat rare:—

“ RIGHT traist friend, we greit you hartlie well. Hearing that ye have ane gyir falcon, quhilk is esteemit the best halk in all that cuntrie, and meetest for us that haue sa gude lyking of that pastyme, we have, thairfoir, taiken occasion effectuouslie to requeist and desyre you, seing halkis are but gifting geir, and na otherwise to be accompted betuix us and you, being sa well acquainted, that of courtesie ye will bestow on us that gois halk, and send her heir to us with this bearer our servand, quhom we have on this earand directed to bring and carry her tenderlie: Quherin, as he shall report our hartie and speciall thankis, sa sall ye find us reddy to requite your courtesie and good will with na lesse pleasure in any the like gates as occasion sall present. Thus, resting persuadit of your presenting us heiranent, we commit you in Goddis protectionn.

“ JAMES R.

“ From Perth, the first of March 1596[7.]

“ To our traist friend, the Laird of Philorth.”

Sir Alexander Fraser was the ancestor of the Lords Salton. He was knighted at the baptism of Prince Henry, and died at Fraserburgh, 12th April 1623. There is a portrait of him in Pinkerton's Scottish Gallery.

† Lord Mar “ was called to a by-name John Slaits, the reason whereof some give to haue been called so by the King while young when they were playing at game. The King alledged he had slaited him, which is an old Scottish word, signifeing that he had outwitted him; and the King oftymes, when he writt with his own hand to him, designed him John Slaits, as his compellation in the beginning of his letters.” Erskyn's MS. Memoirs. He died 1634, in the 72d year of his age.



XLII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE AND LORD BALMERINO TO  
KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 18, 1606.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

Thair is sick bruittis past throught all this land, off some, indeid horribill, accusatiounes against ws (ffor we think thame naa otherwayes our selffis), as the mater is now past concealling, wee haiff hard greate word that wee war to be challengitt heirwpon be your sacred maieftie, and called to ane accompt anent the veritie off fik imputatiounes as is alledgit on ws. We haiff this lang whylle attendit wpon some signification heiroyff from your maist gracious hienes, whose wifdome and justice, we are affured, will neiwer condemne ws onharde. Albeitt it be wydelie aneught spoken, that the allegatiounes in our contrair, and calumnies gevin furthe aganist ws, hes maid great impreffiounes in your hienes mynde, we will naways beleive onye fik thing. This only we haiff thocht ws bund to, off dewtie, feing thair is fua mekle talke off this all whair, as we can naa langer miskenne itt; we protest befoir God, thay ar als great calumneis and ontreuthis, as ewer was dewysit againes onye men; and faa fals, as the dewysars and forgears thairoff fhall neiwer be hable to schaw faa mekle as onye apperance or lykliehad off the fame. What is farder requifeit to be done thairanent, we remitt to your maist gracious hienes wifdome and confideration. The thing wee regrait maist is, that the worde off sick impreffiounes in your hienes mynde, or geving eare to fik onlyklie calumneis, is naa small hinder vnto your sacred maiefties service in thir pairtes, wee haiffing fic chairdge and burding in the fame as we haiff. The halding off this countrie in obedience, will neiwer want eiwill will and inwye off manye off the greateft, and this turne whairon we ar faa calumniat, broght ws mekill ewill will off the coumoun forte off the countrie also, fua that, giff it may be

thought that wee be nocht certane off your maieſteis conſtant favour, bot may be ſua eaſilie detracted and traduced butt farder, it can nocht fail to mak our authoritie and ſtrenthe the leſs in your hienes ſervice, whilk wee regaird maift off anye wardlie thing ; and what grudge wee beare for doing the ſame preceiſlye according to your ſacred maieſteis directiounis in all pointes, as we haiff done, wee doubt not bot your hienes knawes and onderſtandis ſufficientlye. Sua, maift humblye taking our leiwe, and praying the Eternall lang to preferue and augment your royall maieſteis eſtaite and grandeur in all proſperitie, reſtis

Your ſacred Majeſties maift humbill and obedient  
ſubjects and ſerviteurs,

DUNFERMELYNE.  
J. BALMERINO.

Edenburgh, 18 April 1606.

To the King his moſt excellent  
Majeſtie.

XLIII.—THE EARL OF ERROL TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 16, 1606.

IT MAY PLEAS YOUR MAIST EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

That as next wntoe God, the eſtait of my howſs hath ewir bein proteſtit and preferwit be your hienes, againſt the ſubtill practiffis of my fatheris laſt wyff, and my ſtepmother,\* quhilks many zeires befor this tyme, hath bein cleirlye diſcoverit, and maid weill knawin to your royall

\* Lady Agnes Sinclair, daughter of George fourth Earl of Caithneſs. She had one ſon, George Hay of Killour, from whom the preſent Earl of Errol is deſcended.

maiestie. Sa, gif the same fall not zit be wphalden be 3our hienes princelie fawour, against the onquencheable malice of that same woman, and put in fewrtie be 3owr royall power in this same enfewing parliament, I can haif na affurance, bot that both my houfs and my posteritie may perishe in hir falshood. In confideratioune of quhilk great extremitie, I doe maist howmly craif 3our maiesties pardoune, that I am forcit to be sa bawld, as be thees lynes to befeik 3our hienes to affist me in that quhilk wilbe agreable both to 3our hienes honour, and the fewrtie of that howfs: Quhilk, and my awin lyf also, fall ewir be maist reddelie bestowit for 3our maiesties service, at all occasiounes. And as I am not of purpofs to offend 3our hienes with any tedious discours, sa I doe maist hwmillie desyr, that it may pleas 3owr maiestie, to heir the same fra Mr Alexander Hay, as lykwayes my hwmill petitioune to 3owr hienes, togidder with the forme of the fewrtie quhilk I desyr to be grantit be 3our maiestie, and accordinglie directit to the parliament. And thus, in all dewtiefull regards, expecting 3our hienes gracious ansuer, I doe maist hwmillie kifs 3owr princelie hands, and maist earnestlie pray the Almychtie to haif 3owr maist royall perfonne and princelie childrein, with all 3owr maiesties maist werteous defeynes, in his blessed protectioun.

3owr Maiesties maist lwifing and faithfull  
subiect, and hwmill serwand,

ERROL.

Logealmond, the 16 of Marche 1606.

To the King his maist excellent Maiestie.

XLIV.—THE EARL OF ERROL TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 13, 1606.

PLEAS 3OUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Quhereas the privilege of Constabularie in the realme of Scotland, grantit be 3our maiesties most nobill progenitouris, of gude memorie,

L

to my prediceffouris, be law and daylie praëctique, hes bene to judge vponne bluide and bluidweit, committit within sic boundis neir to your maiesties royall chalmer, and in tyme of parliament: Notwithstanding, it hes plesit your maiesties most honorabill and Privie Counsell, to designe and delegat judges be commissioun, for ordour taking with this lait accident, fallin out betuix the Erle of Glencairne and Maister of Wentoun at Perth, upone the different allegiance and claime maid betuix the Chiefe Justice and me, anent the libertie of jurisdictioun, and affixing of court to that effect: Quherebe, the immunitie and friedome of my office is not onlye imparit, bot lykwayis the most sufficient argument of manifesting my zeale to your maiesties service, the abundance quhereof, at all tymes, bot chieffie in this parliament, God and honest men can beare record vnto your hienes. And theirfore, Sir, I am bold in all humilitie to beg your maiesties most gracious favour, be returning ordinance to the counsell, dischargeing the creatioun of the judges delegat; or, els that I may have the benefite of replegiatioun from the commissioneris as accordis of the law, and the authoritie and assistance of the counsell interponit, to cleide with the ancient liberties of my office, anent the citatioun of the malefactouris to compeir befor me in my Court of Justiciarie: in the administratioun quhereof, I fall have sik due consideratioun as my tendir care, and trew regarde to the furthsetting of your maiesties honour and princelye estate, fall be cleirlye publisched vnto the world. And thus craveing your maiestie most humble mercie for my boldnes, with my hart perpetuallie consecrate in love to your maiesties sacred person and estate, I tak my leive, remaneing to death

Your Maiesties most loving and faithfull  
subiect and humble servant,

ERROL.

Logealmond, 13 of July 1606.

To the King his maiest excellent Maiestie.

## XLV.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO THE EARL OF DUNBAR.

JULY 24, 1606.

OWR dewtie rememberit, we have thocht ve cwild do no les nor acquent your lordship of this twmwlt fallin owt in this townn of Glasgow, betwix the Laird of Minto zownger,\* and Sir George Elphinstoun,† prowest, wherpone the haill town almaist reifs in armes, and the gretteft pairt accumpaneit the Laird of Minto and his sone, quhome (eftir ve haid puit the prowest in my Lordis of Wigtoun howfs for his fwrtie, and haid commandit the bailzeis, in his maiesties name, to chairge the Lairds of Minto and thair complifis to thair lwdging, and had extendit all owr athoritie in his maiesties name), zit cwild nocht fwa meikle preveill, that thei wald contain thame felfis in thair lwdginis, bot with greit difficultie cwild resist thame, on forsing the pairt quhair we ftwid to hawld of thair force. We

\* The Stewarts of Minto were for a long series of years provosts of Glasgow. The family is now, it is understood, extinct. Paton, in a MS. Memorandum-book, in possession of the Editor, has noted down—"There was an old family, Stewart of Minto, near Glasgow, as in the High Church of Glasgow appears from a funeral monument, on the left in the entry into the church, engraved on a copper or brass plate, where six or eight more generations, enumerated as knights created under the banner."—"Query, if true, the last of the family was a poor boy, who was sent into Edinburgh barefooted, with a letter to Stewart of Coltness, who [being] promising, was recommended to the Duke of Hamilton, who took him under his Grace's protection, got some education, and afterwards went abroad to Darien, where he died. The mother was of the Whitfoord family, and so poor, that she retired to a town or place near to Dalserf, called Miltoun, where she procured subsistence for herself and son by spinning."

† Sir George Elphinstoun of Blythswood "was a burges and provost of this town, he rose by the favour of King James VI. to be a great man; he was knighted, and made a Lord of the Session, and Gentleman of the Bedchamber. King Charles I. raised him to be Lord Justice Clerk, and he held the office till his death, which was in the year 1634. He got the Gorbals erected into a burgh of barony and regality; but behold the instability of human greatness: for he was the only burges in all Scotland that I ever observed came to the highest office, and made the greatest figure, and yet died so poor, that his corps was arrested by his creditors, and his friends buried him privately, in his own chappel adjoining to his house." M'Ure's Glasgow. 1736, 8vo. p. 63. According to Scotstarvet, he "was in his youth in great credit with King James VI., and lay in bed with him many years, but was discounted by Sir George Home (afterwards Earl of Dunbar) before the King's going to England." Page 132. He married Agnes, third daughter of Thomas fifth Lord Boyd, by whom he had a son and a daughter. The former died without issue; and the latter married Colonel John Maxwell, son of Sir James Maxwell of Calderwood.

will wreitt sparenlie of thair insolent behaveowr, aganis commandementis gevin in his hienes avthoritie, and misregaird of ws quha hes the honour to be his maiesties confellors, will remit the tryell thair of to the avin tyme, quhan we fall declair the veritie of all theis proceedingis; and in the meine tyme to eschew forder inconvenient, eftir we haid caufit mak proclamatioun in his maiesties name, that all men swild repair to thair lwidginis, and the brwnzie wes sum quhat pecefeit, als weill for the misbehauour and misregaird of the commandementis in his hienes name, and of ws execewteris thair of, as also for prewenting of forder twmult, quhille his maiestie or his hienes Priwie Confell might deliberat, quhat cwirs falbe takin for pwnisfching and fatteling the samyn, quhilk no dowl gif it had nocht chainfit ws to be heir at ane particular tryift, wald have twirnit to greit inconwenient, and can noicht weill eschew zit, gif the samyn be nocht preventit. In respect quhairof, we thoicht meitest to chairge the Lairdis of Minto, elder and zownger, to entir thame felffis within the castell of Dumbartan, withe all diligens, to [till?] his maiestie, and lordes of his hienes Privie Counfell, forder plesfour wer knawin; and in lyk maner, Sir George Elphinstoun to entir in waird within the castell of Glasgou: As also, to command the bailzeis to mak proclamatiounis, that naine indwellaris within thair burgh, offir iniwrie be onay maner of way to utheris, bot that thai swild keip the kingis pace wnder the paine of deithe; and that naine of thame swild weir wapinis invaseiff within the brwch, bot behave thame felffis in quyeitt maner, as thei wald be answerable on thair perellis: And forder, to chairge thrie of the speciallis on ather pairtie to entir thame felffis, the ane pairtie within the castell, and the wther within the Tolbwithe of Glasgou, till forder ordour wes takin be the counfell. The skyth is noicht greitt, onlye ane man callit Thomas Cloggye deid, withowt onye woind, and sondrie hwirt withe flauis, quhilk wes to ws gretest impediment to stay thame. The Lairdis of Minto, as we are informit, ar passit to Dumbartane, and Sir George hes enterit in this castell, withe fick of his pairtie as wee commandit. Swa, haiving doine quhat ley in ws, to procwir his maiesties obedience and paice of this townn, quhair ve chainfit to be for the tyme, remittis to your lordschip, to deliberat quhat forder ordour falbe takin heirin, baith for tryell and pwnisfching of this

ryett, and faitling thair of, will tak owr leif, committing your lordship to God. Restis

Your Lordship affwred to power,

WIGTOUN.

MONTRUIS.

KILSAYTH.

We have also acquaintit my Lord Chainfeller thairwith.

Glasgow, the xxiiij Julij 1606.

To my varie gwid Lord, my Lord  
Erle off Dunbar.

XLVI.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 27, 1606.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERANE,

According to your hienes directioun signefit vnto ws be your maiesteis faithfull counfallor the Erle of Dumbar, we did call and conuene befor the counfall the Erllis of Eglintoun and Glencarne, and Glencarne and the Lord Semple, with a number of thair freindis, quhome we knew to haue cheifest interefft in the present feid standing betuix thame, and efter that we had declarit vnto thame the great panes and travellis quhilk your sacred maiestie tuke in your hienes awin perfone, for

extinguifheing of the name and memorie of deidlie feidis, what goode futtes had followit upoun your maieftis travellis in fome of the gritteft feidis of this kingdome, and how that your maieftie had now recommendit to the counfall the removing of this feud, whilk hes bene of fua lang continewance, and be reffone of the minoritie of the Erle of Eglintoun, could not quhill now tak effect, we burdynit thame with a fubmiffioun conforme to the act of parliament. The Erle of Glencarne pretendit that thair wes no quarrell betuix him and Eglintoun, and that a fubmiffioun wes vnnecessar, and in end he directlie refufit to fubmitt, becaus the fubmiffioun importat agains him a guiltynes of the flaughter of the umquhile Erle of Eglintoun, whilk he will never tak vpoun him, bot offeris him reddy to the tryall of the lawis for that flaughter, whilk tryall on his pairt aucht to proceed the fubmiffioun. We rememberit him of ane fubmiffioun fubfcryuit be him selff in this fame matter, agreable in euery worde to that whilk wes now defyrit, when this matter wes laft in handis afor the counfall in Februar 1604, bot he, ftanding vpoun his innocency of that flaughter, refufit to fubmitt. Eglintoun maid no refufall, bot pretending fome excuife vpoun the fhortnes of the warning, he only craued a continewatioun to be aduyfit with his freyndis, becaus this wes the first tyme that euer he wes chairgit in this matter fen his minoritie. And the Lord Semple very frelie, for your maieftis fatiffactioun and obedience, without ony ceremony offerit to fubmitt. We haue grantit vnto Eglintoun, with his awin consent, the twenty day of November nixt, to be aduyfit with his freindis, and to come prouydit in that mater. We haue no affurance of the Erle of Glencarnis obedience, bot the hoip that he will conforme himselff to your maieftis pleaffour, and the Lord Semple wilbe obedyent. We had lykwayes in handis this proces of Glasgou, quhairin we haue fund a very great infolence and ryott committit be Mynto and a nowmer of the commouns of the toun, and hes committit the perfons guilty to warde within the burgh of Linlythgow, quhill your maieftis pleaffour be knawne. This is all that we haue done at this meitting, wherwith we haue thocht meit to mak your maieftie acquainted, to the effect your hienes may gif directioun thairin, as your maieftie fall think goode, whilk we



fal prosequute and follow oute. And sua, praying God to blyffe your  
sacred maiestie with a lang, happy, and prosperous reigne, we rest

Your Maiesteis most humble subiectis  
and seruitours,

MONTROISS.  
AL. CANCELL<sup>s</sup>.  
LINLITHGOW.  
WIGTOUN.  
ELPHINSTOUN.  
J. SECRETAR.

Lynlythqw, the 27 of August [1606?]

To the Kinges moift excellent Maiestie.

XLVII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE\* TO KING JAMES VI.

SEPTEMBER 4, 1606.

MAIST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

It pleased your maiestie to recommend vnto your estaittes, at  
the last sessioun of the parliament, in this kingdome, the inhabitants of  
Dounbartane, that some help might be granted to thame of the haill  
countrie, to mak some defence to thair toun, agains the furgefs and in-  
undatiounes of the seas, whilk is lykelie to destroye and tak away that  
haill toun, and can not be defendit nor repulfitt be naa moyane, thair  
poore habilitie and fortunes are hable to furneische. Theese whoe had

\* Upon the 6th of August, the Lord Chancellor addressed a few lines to the King, in which he  
says, "Yesterday, in great zealle and affectioun, we haiff all celebrat the blessed memoirie off your  
sacred Maiesties happie delyverie from the traitour Gowreis treacherous and devilische conspiracie,  
acknowledgeing all thairin the saiftie, preservatioun, and greatest evidents of Goddis providence,  
and favorable eyes vpon this Iland, Empire, and Cowmounwealthe, that eiwer hes been schawin."

the commiffioun to vifeitt that mater maid thair rapport, that be good confideratioun and calculatioun, naa lefs nor threttie thowfand pounds Scottes was hable to furnifche the charges to fic a wark. The Lordes of Articles, and others of the eftaitts than convenit, thocht not meit nor expedient, at that tyme, to lay twa taxatiounes vppon the countrie, onder tua feuerall naymes, bot with good will granted the taxatioun or fubfidie, the greater vnto your facred maieftie, in hope that your hienes, wpon good confideratiounes, in your wifdome and wounted clemencie towards your poore fubjects, wald beftow fome portioun thairof, for the faiftie and prefervatioun of that poore toun. Whilk, at that tyme, the haill eftaitts willed me to recommend vnto your facred maieftie, lykas, I doubt not bot my Lord Erle of Dunbar will fchawe your maieftie at greater lenth. And I hope your maift gracious hienefs will direct fome good prouifioun to be maid thairfoir, to the confort and contentment of your maiefteis poore fubiefts of the faid toun, wha will ewer remayne your hienes maift bund and deuote oratours; lykas, I, praying the Eternall lang to continew your facred maieftie in all prosperitie and contentment, reftis

Your facred Maiefteis maift humbill and  
obedient fubieft and feruitour,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Nedrie, 4 September 1606.

To the Kingis moft excellent Maieftie.

XLVIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

[OCTOBER 1606.]

MAIST SACRED SOUERAINE,

Thay haue bene great maters, and heiche defeyngs, your maieftie hes had this fommer in this kingdome: And albeit your hienes princelie

intentiounes hes not laiked thair impediments and difficulteis, whilk all alteratiounes and nouelteis caryes, your dewyfe newertheles hes bene fwa wyfe, and weill grundit, and your instruments faa fit, that all (thanks to God) is fuceidit at wiffes to your hienes contentment, and to the contentment off all good and peceabill fubieets. This I can not of my deutie omitt to testifie, that the Erle of Dunbar, be his industrie, trawell, diligence, and extraordinair moyane, and credeit with the nobilitie and hail estaittes, hes maruelouſlie aduanced the good fucces off all hes bene done: as he hes bene trayned wp from his youthe at your ſacred maieſteis feett, hes eiwer bene a great obferwer off all your maieſteis vertieus, fwa I think nayne can ather fwa weill tak wp the drift of your maieſteis plattis, nor zit with ſic dexteritie follow furthe the fame, eiuen to the utter poynt of your maieſteis blank, as he can doe, and hes gevin ſufficient prooffe at this tyme, baithe in the Borders, whilk he has ſatled, far by onye thing that eiwer hes bene done thair befor, or zit might be thoght habill to be done in ſa ſchort ſpace, and in ſic multitude off other great interpreiſes, and alſo in the parliament, whair his behaviour with the diverſitie off humours off our nobillmen and others, ſchew weell he had narrowlie remarked manye leſſons and documents off your ſacred maieſteis proceedings in ſic affaires. Bot this I am certane, will be declaired all to yior hienes at greater lenthe, and better nor I can vryte, be divers off your ſpeciall ferwands, and officears wha ar thair preſentlie, beſides that deid, and the event doeis furneis ſufficient teſtimonie of his fidelitie, care, ſinceritie, and wiſdome, in the government off all thir affaires.

The preſent eſtaite of the countrie is maruelous quyett in all other nor this truble of the peſte, whilk is ſpred, and does great harme in diuers pairts, a mater to be recommendit ſpecialie to Goddis mercie, in ſua far as men can mak lytle ſupport to the fame. Some domeſtic affliction is fallin on my ſelfe, whilk I can nather diſſemble, nor will denye, bot greives me mightelie, giff it war otherwayes I war onnaturall, ſenſeles, and owir ſtoic. I hope alwayes it ſhall diuert me from naa poynt of my deutie in your ſacred maieſteis ſerwice. All ſhall be waited on, in ſic affectioun, cair, and foirſicht as I can furneiſe, the mair diligently now, that I hawe few heir at this tyme to help or ſupplie me. The counfall

shall be convenient at sic tymes and plaices as may be maift conuenient, and your sacred maiestie shall be aduerteist off all proceedings in onye extraordinair accident. This, most humblie taking my leiwe, and praying the Eternall to preferue eternallie your hienes, and all your royall posteritie, in all blifs and felicitie, restis

Your sacred Maiesteis maift humbill and  
obedient subiect and feruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

[October 1606?]\*

To the King his most excellent Maiestie.

XLIX.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

OCTOBER 30, 1606.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

The suffiance of this berar is fik, and swa weell knowen vnto your sacred maiestie, that I war in the vrong to importune your hienes with langer letter or discourfe, in the proceedings heir in all affaires, or directiounes send hither be your maiestie with my Lord Secretair, or with the berar. He saw and hard what was done in all, and can declair the same to your maiestie at lenthe, better nor I can vryte. I hope your hienes shall think thair is als mekle done as can be in sic a tyme, for in all the corners off this kingdome this contagious fiknes is swa spreadde, that nather broughe nor land in onye pairt is free.

\* No date, but from the reference to the plague, probably written in October 1606.

Mista fenum et juuenum denfantur funera.

The tounes off Air and Striveling ar almoste defolat.\* This estait and calamitie hinders all meitingis off counfall, and all publiēt functiounes for ministration of justice, and maintenance of good reulle and gouvernement, except sik as we tak at starts, with some few at Edenburghe, or in sik other place for a day, to keip some countenance of ordour and cair off your maiesteis peace and obedience, whilk does mekle good for als synderlie as we meitt, and shall be sua continewed, till it pleis God to releive the land of this afflictioun. I haiff likewayes desired this berar to satiffie your sacred maiestie in some crediēt deliwered to me, be my Lord Secretair in your hienes nayme, whairvnto he was also witnes; I find my selfe alwayes infinitlie addebted to your maiesteis favour and clemencie; bot I hope your hienes shall onderstand that these reportes has na grounds other nor malice, or inwye, whilk I know nocht how I can haif deserwed of onye man, except in a sincere, upricht, and direct obeying and following all your maist gracious maiesteis maist princelie and iuste commandements. Whairin I intend newertheless to continew still even to my lifes end. Swa, praying the Eternall lang to preferue your sacred maiestie in all prosperitie and good successe, I reſte

Your sacred Maiesties maist humbill and  
obedient subiect and seruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

Dunfermlyne, 30 Octobris 1606.

To the King his maist excellent Maiestie.

\* In the Chronicle of Perth, p. 9, it is said that the plague raged in the south of Scotland from June to February 1603. In 1605, we are told that there was "great pestilence in Leith, Edinburgh, and sundry places." It came to Perth, August 29, 1608, "and continewit till May thereafter, 1609, quherin deit young and auld, 500 persons." P. 12. The plague thus appears to have been almost stationary in Scotland for upwards of six years.

L.—COMMISSIONERS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO KING JAMES VI.

DECEMBER 16, 1606.

PLEASE YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Having for obedience of your hienes letter bene present at the Affemblie of Lithgow as your maiesties commiffionars, and thairin done oure most humbill and faithfull indeuors to fie all thinges grauelie and wyfelie proceidit vnto for the weill and peace of the kirk, quyetnes of the cuntrey, and dew obedience of your maiesties autoritie, according to the most wyfe and prouident directions and instructions fend to ws be your maiestie thairanent. Albeit, the great distractions standing this while bygane amangis the ministrie, and hard opinions alswell preconfaued be findrie of thame, as by ane great number of your hienes vther subiectis of dyuers pourpofes hardlie intended agains the libertie of the discipline and policie of the kirk to be wrocht at this tyme, maid the beginning of oure trauellis full of doubt and difficulties, yet that blifing of God, whilk ordinarlie accompanies the iustice of your maiesties most holie and wyfe disseigns, efter many appearances of great opposition to haue bene maid to all that we could haue proponed, kythed so forcibill at this tyme, that efter oure declaration of your hienes constant fauour to the kirk and all godlie and dewtifull ministers, and thair consideration of the acceptabill contentis of your most gracious letter directed to the affemblie, thair myndis wer thairby so far chainged, that first thay ordanit your maiesties letter to be inboked in thair register, and persauing be the progres of oure actions, how great your maiesties caire wes to repres and puneis the papistis, and to menteane the kirk in thair liberties, and strenthen thame with the power of your maiesties autoritie, the sight of thair former errour, and of the vnexpected weill offered to thame in your maiesties name, maid the hail affemblie, and evin these, wha came of set powrpose to haue opponed to the power and lafulnes thair of, and to oure hail proceedingis thairin, to consent to all that wes concluded with greater moderation and vniformitie, nor euer wes sene in any former affemblie. Whair of your maiestie will vnderstand the particulars be the

actis thair of ordanit to be extractet and fend to your maiestie. Swa that in end, all that wer present, alsweill of the nobilitie, counsell, baronis, and ministrie having vote, as the rest wha came to haue opponed to oure power and proceedingis, in ane voce gaue most hairtlie thankis to God for your maiesties contineuance of your loue to this your natiue cuntrey, and caire of the weill of your faithfull subiectis, and libertie of the kirk thair of, and most affectuouly requeisted ws, in all thair names, to giue to your maiestie most humbill, hairtlie, and vnfeyned thankis for the exceiding confort whilk thay haue ressaue be the gracious effectis vttered at this tyme, of your maiesties constant affection to this kirk and cuntrey, for the whilk, albeit thay can not offer or performe any farder nor thair former dewtie band thame to do, yit, we ar assured, that thay will neuer cease to wish to thame felfis the happines to haue occasion to manifeste to the worlde how earnestlie thay desyre to mak it knawin be thair actions, and all that the frie and readie bestowing of thair trauellis, moyens, bloude, or lyues can effectuat, how far thay think thame felfis bund beyond the ordinar dewtie of common subiectis to thair prince, to expresse thair infinit loue, and humbill and faithfull affection to your maiestie for your innumerabill and daylie increffing benefites and fauouris to thame. And becaus we haue most evidentlie sene this thair requeist to proceid of the sincere affection of thair faithfull hairtis, we haue tane this bauldenes trewlie to recorde the samin to your maiestie at thair earnest desyre, hoping that your maiestie wald graciouflie accept it in gude pairt. Whairin humblie crauing your maiesties pardoun for oure presumption, we beseeik God long to preferue your maiesties lyfe and health, and to increas your hienes prosperitie, honour, and contentment. At Edenburgh, the 16 of December 1606.

Your Maiesties most humbill and faithfull  
seruands,

MONTROISS.

J. LINDESAY.

BLANTYRE.

S<sup>r</sup>. JOHNE SKENE.

JO. PRESTOUN.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

## LI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 7, 1607.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

As it micht be condemned for presumptuous importunitie, giff I fould jornalie with idle letters, truble your sacred ees, or divert your princelie thochtes from weghtiar affaires, zit doe I fear the cenfure and blame of sleuthe and fluggifchenes, giff, in the estaite and rank it hes pleafed your royall maieftie, abowe all merite or valour in me, off your onlie favour and benignitie, to place me, I fould nocht at tymes geive your sacred hienes fome accompt of the generall estaite off this your maiefteis auncient kingdome; for, as to the daylie particulars, I doubt not bot be my Lord Secretairs\* diligence, and other officears, your maieftie hes fpeciall informatiounes, aduerteifments, and intelligence, with full faitiffactioun. The courfe of juftice, thanks to God, is werie weeie fatled; and trewlie, I think, nather thair be, or can juftlie be, ony complaint of wrang done, or zit for laike of dew and tymous miniftratioun of juftice.

In the Hielands, the M<sup>c</sup>Gregours affaires lyis owir, partlie be the feafoun of the year, and partlie be my Lord of Ergyles abfence, whome we looke daylie for.

The countrie of Atholl, and adjacentis about it, throw the imbecillitie and weaknes of this Earle, and intricat estaite of that houle, is now in warft rewl and ordour of anye pairt of theefe countries, whilk was wount to be maift obedient of thame all; but your maiefteis Secreit Counfall heir is prefentlie on the adwyfement how to reforme and putt ordour to that pairt, whilk I hope fhall be done fchortlie, to your hienes contentment. All the reft of the Hielands ar in fic ordour and obedience, as we heir na complaint off thame, nor of naa infolence in thame.

As the firft terme of the taxatioun, or fubfidie, accorded vnto your maieftie be the laft feffioun of parliament, is approtcheing, to wit, Can-

\* James Elphinstone, Lord Balmerino.



dlemefs, fwa is the charges for the fame going furthe and about, with all diligence may be required, in theefe officears. As it was maift willinglie and plefandlie granted, for maift juft and plaufible cauffes, I hope will be maift willinglie, thankfullie, and but onye grudge, payed be all good fubjectis.

Thair is not fwamekle as anye talke at this tyme, in this countrie, off anye mater of eftaite, except it be fome lytle of thir churche maters, and of thair differences, whilks ar alfo marvelouſſie ſatled and quieted, and, be all apearance, will ſchortlie wear to a full conformitie to your ſacred maieſteis godlie and princelie diſſeynge.

After your ſacred maieſteis dewyſe, and be your expreſs directioun, this paſſed yeare the counſall hes compoſed and quieted findrie of the greateſt deadlie feads was in this kingdome. At the enterie of this yeare, we ar to beginne with the auldeſt fead hes bene of thame all, betuix the Earles of Eglintoun\* and Glencairne,† thair houſſes and haill conſequentis, whilk hes ewer bene haddin aff all tymes bigane, wpon the Earle of Eglintounes minoritie and leſs age. The 15 day off this monethe is appoynted thairfoir, and all pairteis on ather fydes ſummoned to that effect, and ordour tane for affurances betuix thame all, in the middle tyme, als convenientlie as might be. God ſend the ſucceſs, according to your maieſteis ſerwandis and counſalloures deſire and affection, and it will be weell aneuche. I aſſure your maieſtie, I ſhall omitt naa thing may ly in my powar, ather be authoritie I hawe of your hienes, or be moyane credeit or freindſchipt I hawe with anye of the pairteis, to worke that purpoife, to your maieſties worthie and good intentioun.

What ewer anye may ſpeik of me, ather in this or onye other your

\* Hugh, fifth Earl of Eglintoun. His Lordſhip married his couſin-german, Margaret, daughter of Robert Montgomery of Giffen, but having no iſſue, he ſettled his earldom on Sir Alexander Seton, ſon of Margaret, Counteſs of Winton, his aunt, and his heirs-male, whom failing, Thomas and John Seton, fourth and fifth ſons of the Counteſs, and the heirs-male of their bodies; whom all failing, to his own neareſt and lawful heirs-male whatſoever, bearing the name and arms of Montgomery. He died in the year 1612, and after his demise the honours were aſſumed by Sir Alexander Seton, and the reader is referred to the intereſting documents in the Melros Papers relative to the ultimate recognizal of his right.

† James, ſeventh Earl of Glencairn.

facred majesties directiounes, in dew tryall, my pairt shall ewer be found according to my dewtie, fwa far as my judgement and possibilitie may extend, to follow and fett fordwart all may proceed from the ordonances and commandements of your hienes great wisdome, whilk I think newer to dispute off, or bring in contrauersie, as I confide assuredlie in your accustomat princelie iustice and clemencie, that naa reporte shall ather prewaill, or hawe anye plaice, credeit, or accefs aganis my lawfull and vpright meaning and doing to the meafour of my strenthe. This being all I can vrite to your majestie for the present, in all humilitie, taking my leive, and praying the Eternall lang to continew your royall persoun and your princelie posteritie to this warlds end, in all prosperitie, grandeur, and contentment abowe ws, restis

Your facred Maiesties maist humbill and obedient  
subject and seruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

Edenburgh, 7 January 1607.

To the King his most excellent Maiestie.

LII.—LORD BALMERINO TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 21, 1607.

PLEAS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

The fyftene of this instant being appoynted for the dealing betuix the Erllis of Eglintoun and Glencairne, the counsell, in very frequent number, hes been in no lytill busynes to gett the pairtyis broght till ony conformitie; and, albeit the panes hes been very great, yitt the successe of our laubouris hes takin away the memorie of our travell, for both the principallis for thame selffis, and thair freyndis, and all the particularis that wer pairttakaris of that feid, ilkane for thame selffis, hes

subfcriyved a fubmiffioun to fax on ather fyde, or ony three of thame, viz. Eglintoun to the Lairdis of Drumlangrig, Garleis, Caruell, Kilfyth, Sir Johnne Bruce of Kincavill, and Andro Ker, bruther to the Erll of Lotheane; and Glencairne to the Lord Cathcart, the Lairdis of Glenvrquhy, Blair, Pollok Maxwell, Reidhall and Barrochane, with pouer to thame to chufe ane ourifman, who fall convene and accept the faid mater vpoun thame, the xxiiij of Februir nixt, and decerne thairin, within the fpace of thretty dayis efter thair acceptatioun; wherin yff thay fail, boith pairteis hes moift humblie remitted the compofing of the hoill feid to your fared maieftie, to be fettled be fuche as your maieftie fall imploy as moift fitt for that purpois: vnder the compafe wherof not only is compryfed the Erll of Eglintoun, Abbot of Kilwynning, and diuers other flaughteris accefforie to that feid, bot mony bloodis of great antiquitie betuix thefe houffis, thair freindis and dependaris, the not quencheing wherof did ftill foster that peftiferous humour, whilk, in end, did burft oute in that cruell flaughter of the Erll of Eglintoun,\* revengeit with no les rigour on the other pairt fenfyne, wherin the pairtyis being fo great and mony, and the rancour fo inveterat, thair wes almoift no hoop of ony end of it, yff the Erll of Dunbarris particulair dealing with ather pairty, and wyifs vfiing of your maiefteis authoritie with great cair and dexteritie, had not terrifeit thame, fo as in end, efter mony nycht and dayis werk, it is broght to a happy begynning, wherof we hoop the end falbe to the great peace of the cuntrey, and your maiefteis contentment.

Thair wes lykwayes fome dangerous heit and vnkyndlie diflykeing betuixt the Erll of Wigtoun and Maifter of Montrois on the ane parte, and the Lord of Blantyre and Mynto† on the other; whilk, with the lyke cair and dexteritie vntroubling the counfell, the Erll of Dunbar hes reconfild. And now, laft, whilk is the end of thefe Glasgw broyllis, the

\* Hugh, fourth Earl of Eglintoun, fucceeded his father in June 1585, but did not enjoy his title a full year, as, on the 18th of April 1586, when riding from his houfe of Polnoon to Stirling, he was attacked and murdered by the Lairds of Robertland and Corsehill, and others of the name of Cunningham, between whom and the Montgomeries a feud had fubfifted for a long courfe of years.

† Stewart of Minto. The Elliots of Minto are a modern family, and the eftate from which they take their title is in the county of Roxburgh.

particulair betuix Mynto eldair and youngair, and thair freyndis, my cofine Sir George and his followaris, is submitted to the Erll of Dunbar, wherin we expect no wer successe nor God hes gevin to the rest of his labouris.

In counsell wer lykwayes red your maiesteis letters, presented by the Bischop of Orknay, wherin, as the moift judicious of that number did acknowledge your maiesteis aune werk, so iust and cheritable to fik as by lenitie may be recalled, not omitting, in end, the remedyis of disperat cures, exacting penalteis dew for thair diffobedyence, and irrogating panes for contempt; so, by the hole number the letter wes imbraced with that applause and desyir, that the copyis of it sould be disperfed to come in the handis of all honnest subiectis, and the commandimentis contenit thairin sould be moift exactlie putt to dew executioun.

The lyk acceptance wes of the other, anent the moderatoris appointed by the lait asssembly of Lynlythgow, and that all suche as willinglie wald not conforme thame selffis thairvnto, sould be chargeit be the counsell in maner contenit in your maiesteis directioun.

Twifday nixt, we haif the gentilmen of Athoill, and other cuntreyis bordouring thairto, for setling these boundis, alfeweill anent the brokin men of that cuntrey, as the Clangregour, who, howsoeuer thay ar become your maiesteis cofines, ar litill better manert nor befoir.

This is the fume of the last counsellis labour, wherin your maiestie may considder what hinderance is to your maiesteis seruice, when, by the plague, the ordinar cours of fitting vpoun your maiesteis affearis is interrupted, and what furtherance it is to your maiesteis seruice sometymes to spair the Erll of Dunbar to be with ws, whose dispositioun in your maiesteis seruice, as being sufficientlie knowne to your maiesteis selff, neidis not my recommendatioun:—and what terrour to malefactouris, and steidfast hoop of peace and iustice to all goode men that duellis ather within the boundis of the late marcheis or cuntreyis nixt adiacent vnto thame, this ouersight and begynning of imployment your maiestie hes layed vpoun him, over these officiaris, your maiestie will heir of otheris; so that, yff his body wer als able to sustene the panes of your maiesteis seruice, as his mynd is willing, and dexteritie rair to accomplishe the same, no imployment could be to him impossible.

In the fatling of thir materis of Glasgw betuix the Lord of Blantyr, Mynto, and Sir George Elphinstoun, the principall poynt is the repositioun of the gentilmen who wer brokin of thair placeis by my Lord Duke of Lennox, whilk your maiestie wilbe gratiousslie pleased to see performed; for all other thingis amang thame ar composed vpoun the foirfaid conditioun.

The Erll of Dunbar hes putt Maister James Nicolfoun\* and Maister Andro Lamb† to ane poynt, so I hoope your maiestie salbe als wele pleased with those twa bischopis as ony of the rest, and that thair labouris in that work fall not be improffitable. Sua, moift humelie craving your maieftis pardoun for my lang letter, I pray God to grant vnto your maiestie a lang and happy regnn, and eternall felicitie. Frome your maiefteis palice of Halyruidhous, the xxi day of Januair 1607.

Your Maiefteis moift humble and obedyent  
subiect and seruitour,

J. BALMERINOCHE.

To the Kingis moift excellent Maiestie.

#### LIII.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS YOUR MOST EXCELLENT, MOST MIGHTIE, AND  
IMPERIAL MAIESTIE,

Being honorit be the reception of your most mightie maiesties lettre, and hauing hard at lenth the Erlle of Dumbar's credit, I haue taine the boldnes be this present, to utter sum pairt of my mening befor the tym cum, nou that I haue to gif proof of sik simple seruiss as I may do. I haue langit to be honorit with your most excellent maiesties com-

\* Parson of Meikle, preferred to the Bishoprick of Dunkeld in 1606. He died on the 17th August the succeeding year.

† Minister at Burntisland. He obtained the Bishoprick of Brechin in 1606, was translated to Galloway in 1619, where he sat till his death in 1634.

mandement, not for onie good that I can do in your most michtie maiefties feruis, bot onlie to haue occafion to utter that more than addettit affection quhilk I carie, and euer fall gif proof of, not onlie nou at this parlement, quhar my uot, and all that I may mou, fall euer be to follou your most michtie maieftis will, bot uith maift uilling hairt, falbe euer readie to uar my blood and all that will follou me, quhanfoeuer the occafion prefentis, that it may gif proof of my loyall affectioun to your most michtie maiefties feruis; for I acknauledge my felf far more detbound to your most excellent maiefties admirable conftancie, by onie of my deferts, than euer uill ly in ane thoufand of me till acquit. Bot forder, I can not gif nor that I haue, quhilk is to gif proof that your most michtie maiefties thocht, gif I can knau it, fall euer ferue me for performans of your most excellent maieftis plefour and uill, and I am forie that my lot hes caffin me fua far from my greteft contentment, quhilk is your most michtie maiefties prefens; bot in affectioun I fall not be diftant, till I haue that honour as to kis your most excellent maiefties hand, quhilk I lang for. The Erle of Dumbar, I beleiue, will ureit mair amplie of my mening to your most michtie maiefties feruis. Sua, craiuing humble pardon for this my tediousnes, eftir the kifing maift humble of your most michtie maiefties hand, I will pray God to gif me grace to do your most michtie maieftie fum acceptable feruis or I die, for the monie fauours I haue refaiuit, and to preferue your most excellent, most michtie, and imperiall maieftie, in lang and happie lyf, and maift prosperous reinge.

Your most excellent, most michtie, and imperiall  
Maiefties humble fubieft, and most affectionat  
feruiteur to my laft braith,

HUNTLYE.

To his most excellent, most michtie, and  
imperiall Maieftie, King of Greit  
Britaine, France, and Yrland.

## LIV.—THE EARL OF ARGYLE TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 28, 1607.

SIRE,—PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAJESTIE,

According to your hienes command, the Marques of Huntly and I hes mett, and hes appointed the xxiv day of Junj nyxt, for concluding the mariage your majestie ordeined betuix his Lordschips sone and my dochter, vliche hes maide me so bold as to entrait your hienes most humble to gif his Lordschip soone leif to cum to this cuntrie, for the accomplishing the same; and thaireftir quhateuir pleissis your maiestie to direct concerning that mater falbe obeyed be me, sua far as I am hable to accomplish. Sua, praying God to grant your maiestie ane long and prosperous reinge, I reft

Your Majesties most obedient subjeet,

ARGYLL.\*

Edgell, the 28 of Februer [1607.]

To the Kings most excellent Majestie.

\* This letter has no date. But according to Wood's Douglas, Lady Anne Campbell was "married, in 1607, to George, second Marquis of Huntly, and had issue, and died at Aberdeen, 14th June 1638."

## LV.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 3, 1607.

MOIST GRATIOUS SOUERAYNE,

Afoir the reffett of your maiefteis letter, concerning the Erll of Athoill, he had meanit him felff to your maiefteis counsell, shewing how mony great and wegthie adoīs he had in handis, tuicheing the estate of his houe, wherin he could tak no folide ordour during the tyme of his warde. The counsaill knowing a parte thair of, and mony of the extre-miteis whervnto he is redactit, thay transportit his warde fra the castell to the burgh of Edinburgh, vpoun goode cautoun of xxxx<sup>m</sup> merkis for his remaning and keiping warde thairin whill he be fred.\* This band fall ly aboue his head whill the difordourit estate of Athoill be fetled. Thair hes bene a preuey dealing be some of your maiefteis counsell, anent the apprehensoun of Johnne Dow M'Gillichallum, and Allaister, his bruther; and your maiefteis chancellair delt particularlie heirin with James Gordoun of Lefmoir. This gentilman, in regaird of your maiefteis obedyence and seruice, by the earnist entreatie and solistatioun of your maiefteis chancellair, tuke the seruice in hand, and haueing maid mony purpoissis for effectuating thair of, whilkis misgaif him: in end, he lichted vpoun the lymmaris, vpoun the† day of Februaire last, and efter a lang and hett combatt, and slaughter of some fyve or foure of the principallis of thame, the said Allaister wes apprehendit, and Johnne, being very evill hurte, by mirknes of the night escaiped. This Allaister wes the personall executour of all the murthouris contrived be himself and his bruther, and hes bene ane of the moīst notable and maisterfull lymmaris that hes bene in the Heylandis thir mony yearis. Thair wes great entreaty, and mony fair promissis maid be his freyndis for his releiff, bot the gentilman, his taikair, preferring your maiefteis seruice, and his awne honnour, to thair offeris,

\* See Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 30.

† This blank occurs in the MS.



and to ony futur event, hafaird, or inconvenient, whilk doubtles he will vndirly, he hes presentit him heir, within the Tolbuith of Edinburgh, wher he is maid fast in the irnis, and falbe tane ordour with accordinglie: we hoip that his bruther fall not lang eschaip, and no goode meanis falbe omittit whilkis may entrap him.\* And feing this gentilman hes fo far advanceit him felff in your maiesteis seruice, and hes red the cuntrey of fuche a maisterfull theif and lymmar, we wilbe bauld to recommend him vnto your maiesteis fauourable confideratioun and remembrance, wherby he and otheris may be encourageit to vndirtak the lyke seruice heirefter. The tyme of our parliament being now approcheing, at the 18 of this instant, we humelie requeist your maiestie to latt ws know your heyneis pleafour anent the continuatioun of the fame. And sua, we pray God to grant vnto your maiestie a lang and happy reignn, and eternall felicitie. Frome your maiesteis burgh of Edinburgh, the thrid of Marche 1607.

Your Maiesteis moift humble and  
obedyent feruitouris,

MONTROISS.  
AL. CANCELL<sup>s</sup>.  
LOTHIANE.  
Jo. PRESTOUN.

HALYRUDHOUS.  
J. COKBURNE.  
R. COKBURNE.

To the Kingis moift excellent Maieftie.

“ This same month [February], Alexander Dow Mackgilleycallum, a notorious theiffe and murderer, was taken by the Laird of Lesse-more, Gordon; his brother Jhone was hurt, and five of his men killed. He was presented to the Lords of Counsaill, and thereafter arraigned and execute.” Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 21. Edinburgh, 1824, 8vo.

## LVI.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 3, 1607.

PLEAS YOUR MOIST SACRED MAIESTIE,

We, your moift humble and loyallie affected feruandis, haueing hard of fome reprochefulle speicheis vttered in the lower houle, by fome evill difpofed fpirittis, to the difhonnour of this your maieftis antient kingdome, and that only your maieftie had ftand to oure defence, we haif in all humilitie, by thefe presentis, prefumed to tak notice of the fame, and to yeald your maieftie moift humble and haitie thankis, not haueing committed ony thing againis that ftate deferving fuche iniureyis, and far les worthy of fo great fauour, as it hes pleafed your gracious maieftie to vouchaif by vindicating ws frome thair opprobrious calumneis. It is no litill greif to ws till heir what juft caufes of difcontentment ar miniftrat to your maieftie at all thofe meitingis, for enforceing that vnioun fo greatlie heated by thame, and fo litell affected by ws, except in that religious obedyence we aught to your maieftie, not to deflyke ony thing that lykis your heynes. And yff it may pleas your facred maieftie, without offence, to heir oure apologyis, in defence of the honnour of oure cuntrey, we doubt not to mak it knowne, be the trew recordis of bygane tymes, fence this Iland hes bene firft inhabitit, that in no poynt of finceir chriftianitie to God, loyall obedyence till oure princes, inviolat freindfchip with oure confederatis, and vnconquered libertie of our eftate, we haif nevir bene inferiour to thame. And in the very fubieft of the vnioun, whairat thay pretend fo mony friuolous exceptionis, that thair advantage falbe euerie way greitar nor ouris, we wald be fory to be authoures of diftrafting that, whiche your princelie wifdome and faderlie cair hes happelie contracted, haueing fo deeply takin in hait, fo to vnite thefe two kingdomes joyned by nature, but by affectioun altogidder diftant, as no markis of diverfitie betuix thame, till the efter comeing ageis fould ap-

peir ; yitt we ar persuadit, that oure iust defence aganis these fals imputationis layed vpoun all the natioun, not spairing your sacred maiestie, nor your moift royall progeny, nor your moift worthy ancestoris, of a hundreth and sex kingis lineallie discending of one stok, can not, bot in your maieſteis accuſtumed iuſtice, reſave at your handis a fauourable cenſure; and yff in ony meitting, ather privat or publiſt, wherof we had mony, about that ſubject, ſuche audience wes euir gevin till ony ſpeeche, ather derogating to the honnour of that ſtate, or diſſuading the vnioun (howeuir thair be amangis ws not a few of the beſt fort, who ar als aliene frome it as ony of the lower houſe, and hes moir iuſt caus to be diſcontented, with ſo eaſie obliterated of bigane wrongis), latt it be till ws a diſloyall pairt aganis your maieſtie, and vnworthie of treu freindſhip aganis youre nyghtbouris; bot contrarie wayes, ſick hes bene the diligent cair of your miniſteris heir, vpon whome your maieſtie is pleaſed to reſoſe the waight of your affairis, that knowing your maieſteis eirniſt diſpoſitioun to perſyte that vnioun, in all thair conferenceis thay haif labourit to extoll all the apparent benefeittis we myght reſſave thairby, and to conceale and ſuppreſ the trew illis. In doing wherof, althoght we haif reportit ſmall thankis of theſe, who ſo liberallie hes talked of ws, or thoſe who, in ſo patient hearing, did cleirlye manifeſt thair allowance of all wes ſpokin, yitt, your maieſteis princelie reſenting our wrong, and vrgeing the tryall and pvnifheing thair of, is moir nor ſufficient recompence, yff oure lyveis, and all oure fortuneis ſould be endangerit in ony thing, myght yeald your maieſtie ſatiſſactioun : and yff (vnder your maieſteis correctioun, to the whiche we alwayes ſubmitt our ſelfſis) your maieſtie wald be pleaſed to deſiſt frome ony forder moving of this vnioun, and mak knowne to that eſtate, that the whole inhabitantis of the ile ar your maieſteis ſubiectis, and that in all your ſeruceis and imploymendis, yee will indifferentlie prefer thoſe, whome your maieſtie, in your wiſdome, ſall find moift capable; that your maieſtie will vouchaif to grace ws with your reſidence amangs ws ſome tymes, and ſeclude ws frome no fauour your maieſtie, in your royall prerogative, may gif ws, and wherof we ſall rander our ſelfſis, by oure cairfull and loyall deſerving to prove worthy, we doubt not bot thay ſall require at your maieſteis handis, that whiche

by this enforceit dealing thay wald appeir to refuse. Bot this and all other thingis, tending to the libertie and honnour of this your maiesteis antient kingdome, we remitt to your maiesteis moift rare and princelie wifdome, humelie requeifting your maiestie to tak in goode parte this our moift humble thankis, haueing nothing els to offer your maiestie for all your vndefervit fauouris, bot our moift loyall hairtis, whilkis fall nevir deborde frome the smallest of your maiesteis thoghtis. Thus humelie craving pardoun of oure presumptioun, we pray God to grant your maiestie, after a lang and happy reigenn, eternall felicitie. Frome your maiesteis burgh of Edenburgh, the thrid of Marche 1607.\*

Your Maiesteis moift humble and obedyent  
feruitouris,

MONTROISS.

LOTHIANE.

DUNFERMELYNE, CANCELL<sup>s</sup>.

J. BALMERINOCHE.

A. L[ORD] WCHILTRIE.

ROXBURGHE.

ELPHINSTOUN.

BLANTYRE.

R. COKBURNE.

SIR R. MELUILL.

To the Kingis moift excellent Maiestie.

LVII.—THE EARL OF GLENCAIRN TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 4, 1607.

PLEISE 3OWR MOIST SACREID MAIESTIE,

According to 3owr maiesteis command, I submittitt the particular bluidis and contrawerfeis standing betwix the name of Mongowm-erej, me, and my name,† to feike freindis, as was schosin befoir 3owr

\* See Laing's History of Scotland, vol. iii. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, as to the proposed union between England and Scotland.

† Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 16.

maiesteis confaill, and the day appoyntitt be the confaill to conwene befoir thame to exceptt the famen, quhilke day we haif all keipitt, and the jugis exceptitt, and ower clames on ather fyid was gifin in. Then restitt the commoneris to agre on the owerisfman, quhilke thay wald nocht do, and fwa it is cummen in zowr maiesteis handis, quhairof I am maift glayd, ewer expecting zowr maiesteis moift gratiowse fawour to me and myne, quaha hes, and fall ewer carie maift ferwyabill hartis as we salbe commanditt. Gif thair fall cumme any reportis of me to zowr majestie, I am fertane, according to zowr maiesteis wuntitt and moift gratiouse custowme, I wilbe callitt to my awin accont;—I dowl nocht bott zowr moift sacreid maiestie will fwa settill thatt turne, as heirefter thay be na cawisse of gruge on ather fyid, and that ewerilke ane of ws may joisse ower awin kyndlye rowmes and poseffiounis in all tymes cummeing. This erectiowne of the Abeffej of Kilwyneing, quhilke my Lord of Eglingtowne menis to suite att zowr maiestie, will nocht fail to intertenej the feid of trubill amangis ws, for we wilbe all enterest thairby; and I protest befoir zowr maiestie, I haid rather loiffe my lyf, or ony occatiowne war gifin be me to breke that wnitej quhilke zowr maiestiej will command. I man craue zowr maiesteis humbill pardowne for this my fawcheowse lettir, and ewill wrytt. My moift humbill feruice presentitt to zowr moift sacreid maiestie, I pray the Lord to gif zowr maiestie gud hailthe, lang lyf, with ane proffeperowse ryng, in the feir of the Lord; fwa I rest

Zowr Maiesteis maift humbill and obedyent subiectt,  
ewer redej to be commanditt with all humbill  
ferwice,

GLENCAIRNE.\*

Edinburgh, the fourtt of Merche 1607.

To his maift Sacreid Majestiej.

\* James, first Earl of Glencairn, a privy councillor, and one of the commissioners for a treaty of union between England and Scotland.

LVIII.—THE REVEREND PATRICK GALLOWAY TO KING JAMES VI.  
APRIL 7, 1607.

PLEAS YOUR GRATIOUS MAIESTYE,

This præsent is to giue your maiestye moſt hartlye thankis for all your maiestyes fauors towards me, ſpeaciallye for the conſtant continuance of your maiestyes loue with me, as it vas vount, affuring your maiestye, you haue the man who neuer vas nor ſhall, God willing, be found alterable in his duetifull affection to ſerue your maiestye, as becomes him. If it fall out that I ſuſpend my judgment in ſomethings proponed to me aff hand, till I got fuller reſolution both to ſpeak and to ſtand honeſtlye to that whiche I ſpeak, affuredlye it arryſes of no vnſound and altered affection toward your maiestyes ſeruice, bot onlye off laik of foreinforming, whiche geues light and curage to men to doe; and vherewith euer ſince I ſerued your maiestye I haue bene made pertaker als ſoone as others: and for the clearing of this point, I referre myſelf to my Lord of Dunbars teſtification, who can and will giue iuſt information to your maiestye of it. I heare that your maiestye is reſolued to haue the miniſtree of Edinburghe complained, the eſtate whereof is more miſerable and deſolat nor ony toune or kirk in Scotland, and whiche is vorſe, the pulpittis ar ſometymes poſſeſſed with yong people, and perſones vnmeete for that place, whiche bringis the goſple and miniſtree into a contempt, and will ouerturne all in end if it be not remeadit. The planting of it will doe great good to all the countrey, and help to amend mony thinges amiſſe, and procure great forderance of your maiestyes ſeruice and quyat of this kirk, provyding the perſones be good teachers, peaceably diſpoſed, and weyll affected. I heare alſo that your maiestye is ſome quhat moued to haue me placed there; bot, Ser, beleefe me, in truth I am not for it, in reſpect of mony thinges in thame, and more in me, whiche can not concurre weyll to make vp a good mariage

betuix vs. I need not to vse many vordes with your maieftye, who knoues vs both alfueyll as our felfis doe. I mynd, God willing, to teache euery Sabbath, where euer I be, so long as I may, and to be readye in most duetifull maner to concurre in your maieftyes seruice, as I falbe employed; bot to take on the charge of a particular flock, and such ane flock, my heart cannot yeeld, and I hope your maieftye fall not burdin me with it. The bearer hereoff, Mr Peter Heuat,\* is ane honest man, and your maieftye may reiofe in the planting of him, being ane of your maieftyes owne plantation there, and ansuring to your maieftyes expectation of him in all pointis, and can truely and sufficiently informe your maieftye of all particulars here; bot he is not, as he deserues, and as your maieftye appointed for his encouragement, ansured of his small pension assigned to him, vliche is pitie, and wald be helped to put difference betuix those that ar your maiesties oune men and others. If Mr Jhone Hall,† ane honest man, and ane of your maieftyes owne planting also, and he war remoued, I wat not vhat fuld become of Edinburgh, your maieftyes cheefe toun her. Bot leafig those particulars, appardone me, Ser, to speak one word of the common caufe. Ser, at Lightquho, my Lord of Dunbar did good seruice to your maieftye, and by God bliffing his vyfe and canny forme of doing, he prevailed so as I neuer sawe ane more peaceable and ordourlye assemblie in my tyme, bothe in the progresse and end, as it vas, and therefor vas admired and praied of all in publike

\* Author of a treatise entitled “ Three excellent Points of Christian Doctrine. Edinburgh, 1621.” He demitted the ministry about the year 1615.

† Mr John Hall continued in the ministry until 1619, when he craved to be “ dismissed with the King’s favour, in respect of his age and infirmitie of bodie, which he granted; yet he was not infirm, but he might have continued teaching, for there was no sensible decay found in his gifts. The truth is, he would not offend the King by not conforming, for fear of losing his pension; and on the other side, would have the godly belieav that he was averse from the latest novation. But they interpreted this forsaking of his station, after he had helped to set the house on fire, to proceed only from loue of ease, leasiness, and fear to lose some part of his reputation, when his gifts should begin to fail. So he left his ministry of Edinburgh without the people’s consent, resting only upon the King’s demission.” Calderwood, 1678, folio, p. 723. These censures, coming from an opponent, are not entitled to much weight. The plea of age is overlooked, and infirmity partially admitted,—causes quite sufficient to account for Mr Hall’s retirement.

fermones and priuat speaches. The hope of taking order with Papiftis, and quyating of diftractions amongft our felfis be constant moderators, led all menn ioyfullye your maieftyes vay, and if that courfe fetled there be profequute, your maieftye may affure your felf of pace here during our dayes, that is, if Papiftis can be kept vnder be your maieftyes authoritie foundlye vfed here, and the kirk cenfures be fuffered to haue the awne place againft thame, our pace will grow, ill tongues wilbe filenced, and all thinges will go calmely, to your maieftyes contentment. Your maieftyes glory hath bene, and is the profefling and manteaning of the gofple of Jefus Chrif, and all the world fees your maieftyes multiplied præfermentis and præferuationes to arryfe of the præfence of Jefus, the Lord of this gofple, with you, and to tend to the præferuation and aduancement of it by your maieftyes præferuation and aduancement, tuo thinges insepably vnited, fence your maieftye hade being. Lat thame, therefor, be compted your enemyes that will not conforme thame felfis to it, and God fall contineue his bliffing with your maieftye, and croune you with that incorruptible croune of glory in the end. So, moft humblye taking my leefe, I commend your maiefties perfone, familye, kingdome, and affairis, to the bliffing of God. From Edinburgh, this 7 of Apryle 1607.

Your Maiefties awin moft humble and  
affectionat feruitour,

MR P. GALLOUAY.\*

To his Maieftie.

\* Patrick Galloway was originally minister of Perth, but was translated from thence to Edinburgh, where he exercised his ministerial functions till his death in 1624. He married Mary, daughter of the Rev. James Lawson, also minister at Edinburgh. His son, Sir James Galloway, was created Lord Dunkeld, 15th May 1645. In a letter from Bishop Sage to Mr John Guilan (Catalogues of Scottish Writers. Edin. 1833, 8vo) he says, "While at Aberdeen, 4 years agoe, I learned that Dr Urquhart there has some volumes of a MS. history of what passed in his time, by Mr Patrick Galloway, who was famous in King James the VI. minority and afterwards." P. 130.



## LIX.—THE LORD CHANCELLOR TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 9, 1607.

MOIST SACRED SOUERAYNE,

Your maieſteis letter of the thrid of this infant, anent the comptrollaris intention to exact cuſtome of the outwarde and inwarde commoditeis exchangeit betuix this, your maieſteis kingdome, wes preſentit to your heyneſ counſaill, and, conforme thairto, ane act paſt, diſchargeing the comptrollair and cuſtomaris of all forder melling in that mater. Your maieſteis vther letter, anent the miſbehaviour of the Maifter of Gray towardis his fader, wes lykewayes preſented and red in counſaill, and ane commiſſioun exped accordnglie to the Lord Haliruidhouſ; bot, in the meantyme, the Lord Gray, heiring quhat wes concludit be your maieſteis counſaill in that mater, he directit his ſone Robert with a letter to the counſaill, ſubſcryved be himſelff, a number of his freyndis, and two miniſteris, ſhowing, that his petition, exhibited vnto your maieſtie, procedit vpoun euill information, and perſwaſioun of ſome perſonis, who lyked not of concord and peace betuix him and his ſone, and, that all thair differences wald be ſetled and dreſſit with their awin freyndis, and, that your maieſtie nor your counſell ſould not be troubled thairwith, as be his letter, whiche your maieſtie ſhall heirwith reſſaue, may appeir; wherupoun the counſaill thought meit to forbeir all forder melling betuix thame.

Thair heſ bene findrie dyettis betuix Mr James Home and the freyndis of the Laird of Melleſtanes, anent the ſatling of that feid. Mr James ſeamis to be very penitent, and wald glaidlie imbrace freyndſhip, and mak ſatiſſaction and affyithement, bot the Haitleyis pretendis mony excuſſis vpoun the abſence and minoritie of thair cheif, and, that diuers of thame being removeable tennentis to him, can not enter into that treaty by his adviſe. Efter diuers continuationis granted vnto thame, in end, this preſent day, a number of thame compeirit and producit a letter, writtin to thame frome thair cheiff, propoſing, that he will only ſubmitt that mater

to your sacred maiestie, and nane vtheris; and thay, as alfua his curatouris, who compeirit with thame, following his opinioun, maid the lyke anfuier, and, for thair pairtis, hes submittit to your maiestie, wherupoun ane act of counsell is past, and nothing reftis now bot Mellestanes awne pairte to be perfyted, whilk wald be done thair be your maieftis directioun, and returnit bak heir to fuche of your maieftis counsell, whome your maiestie will mak choife of in that mater, wherein thay fall haif the concurrence of the whole counsell.\* The submissioun betuix Eglintoun and Glencarne is cassin in your maieftis handis, as, by the proces of the counfallis dealing with thame, whiche the Erll of Dunbar will shaw vnto your maiestie, may appeir.

The Esteatis of Flanderis being debtfull in diuers great fowmes to vmquhile Capitayne Achiefoun, for his seruice in the wearis amang thame, and his bairnis finding a warr schip, pertening to the Esteatis, lyand in the harbory of Leyth, awaiting vpoun the transporte of the Lord of Buchcleugh, and some companyis lifted by him, thay caufit arreift the said ship. This mater seamit grevous to the whole estate of maircheandis, who hes fa frequent a handling in these pairtis; and your maieftis counsell haueing at lenth aduyfit heirupoun, thay resoluit, that, in respect this wes a mater of estate, wherein your maiestie hes intereffe, the arreiftment fould be lowfit; and thay humblie crave your maieftis resolutioun, incaife the lyke mater fall oute heirefter. And fua, humelie craving pardoun of your sacred maiestie for my lang letter, I pray God to bliffe your maiestie with a lang and happy reignn, and eternall felicitie. Frome your maieftis burgh of Edinburgh, the nynt of Aprile 1607.

Your Maieftis moift humble and obedyent  
fubiect and feruitour,

AL. CANCELL<sup>s</sup>.

To the Kingis moift excellent Maieftie.

\* "In May this yeere (1607), the deadly feid and inimitey betuix Haitley of Mellerstanes and Home of Eccles, by his maiesties especiall command, was reconceilled by a comittee from the counsaill table." Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 21.

## LX.—LORD GRAY TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

APRIL 8, 1607.

MY LORDS,

Heiring that his maiestie hes fend ane letter to your lordships of his honorable pryvy confell quhilk I vret to his maiestie, with command to tak tryell of materis betuine me and my eldest sone, I thocht gude, so schone as I hard of it, to derect my sone, Robert, in presence of sic our frinds as war heir for the tyme, quhais subscriptiounis ar with myne, to lett your lordships knaw that I vrett that letter to his maiestie at that tyme being euill informit, be persuaision of sum euill dispositiounis quha lykit nocht our agreement, and on thair informatioun, being transportit with coloir, the ordinar difese of eage, thinking that my eldest sone wald haiff vfit himself vtherwayis to me and my seruands nor he hes done: bot sen that letter was vrettin, we haiff satlit all our awin townis amangis ourselfis, and both I and hee ar content that giff ony questioun fall arifs amangis ws heireftir, that our awin nearest friends fall judge it, without troubling his maiestie or your lordships of his honourable pryvy confell, as att lenth the berar will inform your lordships, so it fall nocht be neidfull ony be directit in commissioun from your lordships heir for that effect to me.

Your most lowing frend to command,

P. L[ORD] GRAY.\*

At Fowlis, the 8 of Apryle 1607.

Mr ROBERT RYND, minister at  
Langforgund, witness.  
Mr H. MORTOUN, minister at  
Foulis, witness.

JAMES OGILUY of Balfour.  
WM. GRAY off Bandirren.  
DAVID MAXUELL of Cullerny.  
JAMES MONORGOUND of that Ilk.  
P. GRAY of Balgarno.  
R. GRAY.

\* Patrick, sixth Lord Gray, succeeded his father in 1582, and died in 1609. His eldest son was the celebrated Master of Gray.

## LXI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

August 21, 1607.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

Schortlie befor the entrie of our parliament, I reffaued fra my Lord of Scoone, your sacred majesteis gracious letter, in a pairt testifeing baith your hienes good remembrance off my foirbears good service, and your fauorable and benigne acceptatioun of my awin goodwill and endewore to employe sic qualitie and giftes as God hes bestowed on me, at your hienes devotioun and command, with greater accompt thair off, nor ewer I can be hable to deferwe; and in a pairt remembering me off my dewtie in all respects and degreis.

As the first binds me in all dewtie to thankfull and cairfull service to fa thankfull, gracious, and fa kyndlie a foverane, fwa does the secund remember me, the weyght and importance of the burding I vnderly in fa honorable a charge, to ane fa wyfe, grave, and weel seand prence, wha examinis and weyis all his subjects, and specialie his officiars actiounes, baith in favour, wisdome, equitie, and justice.

I protest befor God, that, nixt to that dewtie I aught to God for my faule, and haille being, your sacred majesteis honour, will and weell, is, and shall ewer be, my first intentioun, and principall butt off all my actiounes, whairto my haille industrie and studie shall be directed in all finceritie and earnestnes.

I will not be curious to purge me of all imputatiounes, whilk naa man, in sic charges and sic distance of plaices fra thair maisters sight, can eschew. I repose haille on your hienes cleir perspicacitie, heiche judgement, and constant zeal to justice, whilk I am certane will newer condemne me, in the smallest enclein of your mynd, onhard and tryed, and in good tryall, I am ewer certane to preiwe my actiounes conforme to

your maist gracious hienes directiounes, to your will, plesour, and devotion ; for that hes ewer bene, and fwa, Godwilling, fall continew, my cynofura and leidar starre, to follow and obey, in all humilitie, your prencelie wifdome in all deliberatiounes and conclusiounes.

I doubt not, bot the progrefs and successe of all affairis in the parliament was signified vnto your sacred maiestie, at all tymes and occasiounes, be my Lord of Balmerinoche, secretaire.

In the middest of the parliament, we celebrat verie solemlie the 5 day off August, the day of your hienes blissed deliverie from Gowreis treasonable conspiracie, in the quhilk Mr Patrik Galloway\* maid the fermone, in the heiche kirk, werie weell to the purpose, and discharged his dewtie to your majestie werie honestlie, geving to the haille auditorie cleir evidendis off the cair God had off your hienes preferwatioun, for the speciall weell of his haille natioun ; off your majesteis innocencie and good meaning ; off the treacherous intentiouns and behaviour of the conspiratouris, whilk God turned all miraculousslie to thair confusioun, and to your majesteis (as his chossen serwants) weill, honour, and advancement ; for his text was the 121 Pfallme, whilk he applyed werie purpoisslie to this intent. This maist humblie taking my lewe, with earnest prayer to the Almightie for your hienes lang and happie regne, reftis

Your sacred Maiesties maist humbil and  
obedient subiect and seruitour,

DUNFERMLYNE.

Dunfermelyne, 21 August 1607.

\* See a letter from him to King James, p. 108. He was father of Sir James Galloway, the first Lord Dunkeld, whose elevation to the peerage gave considerable offence from the obscurity of his family ; and it was remarked, " That though the King could make him a lord, he could not make him a gentleman." His Lordship, if we may credit Wodrow, had the gift of prophecy, for that reverend gentleman has preserved in his collections some very unintelligible lines, which he designates as the predictions of Lord Dunkeld ; adding, however, that " others ascribed them to Napier of Merchistoun." These wretched verses were some time ago privately printed in a volume termed " *Nugæ Derelictæ*."

## LXII.—LORD HOLYROODHOUSE TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 25, 1607.

MOST GRACIOUS AND SACRED SOUVERAIN,

As al your maiesties subiects in general has mor nor caus to prais and magnifie the bleffit nam of thair God, who, in al the tym of your maiesties most happie gouvernement, has had so many proofs of the innumerabl blifings and comforts which has accompaniit your maiesties sacred reign ; so I, who, befyds the deutie and aleagans of an comon subiect, stands so far debtour to your maiesties fauours, can not, without the imputation of the highest point of ingratitude, bot with al reuerens, and in most submissiu affection towards your sacred maiestie, akknauledg the fontain and origin of my vhol fortions to hau sprung from the ocean of your maiesties liberalitie : and as from my infancie you hau ben my vphalder, so nou, in the lait preferment whervith I am honourit, although vnvorthie of such fauour, your maiestie has giuin as it var an neu creation, for the vhlk, fens natur has denyit means to prou vorthy of so many benefits, zet to suppli al thos defects of judgment, knowledg, and experiens, and fens I can not do vhat I vould, I shal euer be affectionat to do vhat I may, and to sacrific my lyf, and al my fortions, in your maiesties feruic, and shal neuer ceas to pray for the continuans of an prosperous regn to your maiestie, and for euer to your royal progenie, and so shal rest

Your Maiesties humbl seruand,

HALYRUDHOUS.\*

The 25 of August 1607.

To the Kings most excellen Maiestie.

\* John Bothwell, first Lord Holyroodhouse, was the eldest son of Adam Bothwell, Bishop of Orkney, who married Queen Mary to James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell. Upon the 2d July 1593, he was appointed an ordinary Lord of Council and Session, on the resignation of his father. He was subsequently made a peer of Parliament ; and this letter is one of thanks to James for the honour conferred on him. He died in November 1609.

## LXIII.—THE EARL OF ABERCORN TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 26, 1607.

IT MAY PLEIS 3OUR MOIST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Haueing reffavit 3our hienes lettre about the 24 of Julij, commanding me to attend the fynode of Clyddifdail, the fourt of August, quhilk, being continewit to the 18 be reaffone of the parliament, I did direct my particular lettres to everie presbyterie, willing thame solemplic to keip the fyft of August with thair flokis, gifing thankis to God (as moift iustlie we haid all reaffoune, in memorie of fua greit ane bliffing, as God, in his mercie, did grant wnto ws all 3our maiesties subiectis), by 3our hienes happie prefervatioun frome that abhominable and moift treasonabill conspiracie at Perth; quhilk thay moift willinglie obeyit. Also I cauffit this haill countrey (speciallie these quhome off I haid commandement off all estaittis) mak fyreis of joy, with all wther lauchfull takynnis off glaidnes. The 18 day, accoirding to 3our maiesties directioun, I did keip the fynode convenit at Glasgw, and requyreit thame, accoirding to the act at Linlythgw\* (quhilk I produceit and cauffit reid wnto thame), that thay wald admit the archebifchope of Glasgw thair moderator, quhairinto, in the beginning, thay maid greit oppositioun, allegeing the act nocht to haue bene concludit in forme, as was thair gifin out, and that the moderatouris of presbytereis wer aggreit vpoun, to continew for a tyme in the perfounes of thame that wer thair nominat, bot that of the moderatioun of fynoddis nothing haid bene spokin. Quhairunto I repleit, that to be ane accusatioun of honest men, namelie, the moderator and clerk of the assemblee, under quhais handis the same wes extractit, quhilk being verefeit, wald mak thame infamous, and put thair lyffis in 3our maieftis handis. Thairfoir, giff onie wald directlie allege it to be fals, and tak

\* See Spottiswoode's History of the Church of Scotland. London, 1677. Folio, pp. 500, 501, 502.

upone him the improbatioun of the fame, I wald, accoirding to my place and power grantit to me be 3our maiestie, mak thame fast, untill thay maid guide thair perfute and allegiance; quhairupoun thay fell frome the said challenge, and defyreit a continewatioune of materis to fum fchort dyet, that thaj myght be advyffit quhat to do: bot I denyit onie sic pouer to be gevin me be 3our maiestie; and that I wald nocht go ane poynt beyond my directiounes. So as, in end, fynding thame selfis straittit with a present aunfuer, and haveing signifeit to thame quhat command I haid for denunceing thame rebellis, and diffolving the fynode incais of disobedience, thay put foure of thair number vpoun the lyttis, and the archebyfchope being removit by him selff, the questioun was movit quidder thaj wald accept him accoirding to 3our maiesteis defyre, or proceid to the electioun of ane of thair awin lyttis, as thaj haid bene accustomeit? The haille fynode (tua onelie exceptit) voittit to his acceptatioun. The tua wer Maister William Simfoun, minister at Dumbarton, and Maister Edward Bryce, minister at Drymmen. Maister William Simpfoun departit frome the affemblie quhen he saw the admissioun to proceid, with thir wordis, "That he wald nocht remaine in affemblie that wes moderatit be ane bishop," and went away without returning. This endit, and the archebyfchope haueing acceptit the moderatioun of the fynode, chois wes maid of tua of thair number to keipe the colloque at Halyruidhous, the first of September, namelie, Maister Johnne Hay, and Maister William Birney.\* Inquirie was also maid of the diligence of the presbyteries in

\* Mr William Birnie was born at Edinburgh, 1563. He was of the ancient family of Birnie of that ilk, and was originally brought up as a merchant; but, having suffered considerable losses at sea, he resolved to turn his thoughts to the ministry, "and for that end went to Leiden, where he continued thrie years, applyeing himself to the studie of divinity, and, from thence returning to his native country, was admitted minister at Lanark by a letter of presentation from King James VI., dated at Edinburgh, the 28th December 1597." *Memoirs of Family of Birnie*, MS. in possession of Editor. He died 1619, in the fifty-sixth year of his age. His biographer gives the following curious notice of him:—"Att his coming here, there were severall feids among his parishioners, as in other places at that tyme, and frequentlie the quarrels began soon after sermons on the Sunday; but as he was a great peace-maker, so he was a stout man, and upon his appearance with sword in hand, he had the happiness, by his authority, to dissipate the contending parties without manslaughter, and, for the most part, without blood." He was the author of a singular work, called "The Blame of Kirk Burial." Edin. 1606, 4to, of which a beautiful reprint, with preface by W.B.D.D. Turnbull, Esq., Advocate, appeared in 1833, 4to. He also wrote "A Tractat of



the persewing of Papistis, accoirding to your hienes ordinance ; and quhat remainnit in thair censureis amangis thame selffis, and wtheris thair affairis, wes, with greit calmenes, and ane wniverfall lykeing of all that number, so handillit, that the moift scrupulous amangest thame wer verie weill satisfieit, and na assemblie this lang tyme keippit in better ordour, to all thair contentmentis, and that speciallie be the archebyfchop, then moderator, his prudent and grave gouvernement ; fwa that, heirefter, I hoipe, quhair thair falbe fuche establisched to rewll and moderat under your maiestie, your hienes in all tymes heirefter fall nocht haue necessitie of commissiounaris, bot raipe the fruite of your maiesteis langsum travellis. I pray God furnishe to your maiestie monylyke to him, haveing equall knowlege, with no les affectioun. As for my selff, it hes sua pleiffit God (nochtwithstanding of my waiknes) to blis your maiesteis litle services at all tymes committed by your hienes to my charge, that it hes emboldnit me to offer myselff of new with no les affectioun nor onie your maiesteis subiect, to quhatsumever service I falbe habill to discharge, beleifing thair falbe found verie few or nane to withstand your maiesteis commandementis, that ar euer seine to be godlie and moift reasonabill. It may pleis your maiestie to pardone me, iff I do seme over prolix to your hienes in this lettre, the desyre I haue to giff compt of all, conforme to the trewth, is my best excuis. I haue also heirwith sent to your hienes the extract of the act. Thus, beging at God to your maiestie lang dayeis, with incres of all hapines, and full accomplischement to your hienes greattest contentment of all your graces moft princelie designes, I remaine for ever

Your Maiesteis moift humbill, obedient, and  
affectionat subiect and servitoure,

ABERCORNE.\*

Blakistoun, the 26 of August 1607.

To his moift Sacred Maiestie.

Chronologie," which he dedicated and presented to King James VI. This work, which does not seem to have been printed, was preserved in MS. in the Broomhill Library.

\* James, first Earl of Abercorn. He died March 16, 1617.

## LXIV.—THE FARMERS GENERAL OF THE CUSTOMS TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS 3OUR MAIESTIE,

Our dewtye as fubiectis, our defyr to be 3our fervantis, and our intentioun to augement the revenew of the twun, the fmalnes quhair-of is a reprooiche to the kingdome, mouit ws not out off neceffitie, fince none bott thofe who ar of abilitye and credeit could vndertak fik a worke, wpone a motioun maid wnto ws by the ryght reuerend father in God, our very guid Lord, the Airchebifchope of Glasgow, to mak this offer off greater payment, to the valew off xxxviiioo merkis a zeir, then was formerlie payet wnto 3our maieftie; none could in fchaw diflyk our guid meanning, muche applauding was maid to it, and maney offers of guid affiftance; wherupone we did vndertak, and hes fund firties, and aduancid fome of our payement beiffoir hand, being villing till continew giff we could find that patrociney in this actioun, quhilk 3our maiefteis awin affaires off reafone fould haue, quhairof we wer fully affured, fo long as we had that moft honorabill noble man, the Earle of Dumbar, 3our maiefteis moft worthie trew fervant, in the cuntrey. Bot otheris being now difapoyntid of that zeirlie gaine quhilk thaj haue off maney zeiris inioyed, wifhing itt fould rather haue fallin ftill in thair owen purfes than come to 3our maiefteis cofferis, dois omitt no maner of way, whereby thay may veirrye ws off the chairdge, that fo by this affront quhilk falbe gevin wnto ws, all vtheris may be affrayed to ferve 3our maieftie heirefter, or advance 3our profeit in any foirt: our onlye defyr is, to haue the covenantis and articles of the contrake maid betuix 3our maieftie and ws to be keipit, and the impedimentis removed; quhairin, firft, we do humblie intreat, that all contraverfies concernyng our customes may be refferred to the Judicatorye of the Exchecher, quhilk was the only competent judgment for fuche maters untill the lait bred confufioun betuix the feffioun,

and it did suppress the Exchequer altogether. It is conditionet by the contrak, that no new exactioun nor imposit falbe imposit vpon the subiectis to the preiudice or hinder to the tread of merchandice, and now, by this lait grant off four pundis off every tun, within Edinburgh and iurisdixioun thair of, thair is ane direct breache of that article; and within few zeires your maiestie will find the great hairme that fall infew thair of. By one contrak, we haue the grant to be only searchers during our tak; we defy that conditioun to be performit; and in so far as Barnard Lyndfay wald now acclayme ane auld lyferent gift of searcheary itt is so frivolous ane pretent, quhen he himself hes, since the daitt of itt, exceptit voluntariye tua temporary takis of the samyn, on efter another, as it dois manifestlye schew quhat be the intentionis off sum men quha vald countenance fuche ane vnrefonable demand, quiche we do nocht respect so muche for ony benefeit that he can acquyr be retennyng off it, quhilk we do nocht invy, as we do iustlie feir off the hinderance he may gif to the tred, for the evill will of ws quha hes takin the customes ouer his heid, he formerlye being fermour: And this office of searchearye being institut only for the behove off the customer, and no vayes to be a croice vnto him and the hynderance of your maiesties benefit, as in this caice it will no doutt procur, fould be healillye refferit vnto vs, or vther-ways this wilbe the last zeir that ony will tak it in ferme. Sum bruches off regalitty, pretending thair exemptage frome payeing of any custome, fuche as Dumfermeling, Churchaldye, and Muffilbruche, fall schoirtlye become the staple of all wairis in your kingdome, and your maiestie fall lois the profite of your hail customs, being ane grit pairt of your hienes renew, the beginnyng of quiche canker we do alreddy feill, and in our deuttie to your maiestie, can nocht omitt till certiffie your hienes thair off, that thay may be in tyme dischairdgit. Entreitting, thairfoir, humblie, your maiestie to aduert to thois things, quiche, houeuer thaj may at the present hairme vs in sum soirt for our forvardnes in your seruice, and villingnes till augment your profite, zitt will it be schoirt of that preiudeice, quiche your maiestie fall refave thairbye heirefter; and, haifing fend thois tua off our number, to explain at more lenth to your maiestie, the hard crosses, and maniefolde impedimentis we ressaue in

your seruice, we, in all humilitie, according to our bounden deutye, do pray for all happines to your hienes, and reftis

Your Maiesties moift humbill fervantis and fubiectis,

THE FERMOURIS OF YOUR MAIESTIES  
CUSTOMES OF SCOTLAND.

To his moift excellent Maieftie.

LXV.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 6, [1608?]

PLEIS YOUR MOST EXCELLENT, MOST MIGHTIE, AND  
IMPERIALL MAIESTIE,

Being this far on my journey, of intention to haue presentit my fone\* unto your moft michtie maieftie, and onderftanding be the Erlle of Dunbar, that it is your moft excellent maiefties pleafour, that I fuld ftay myfelf till efter the parlement, I mynd euer till conforme myfelf to your moft michtie maieftis will and direktion, althocht my greateft defyr be to haue that honour, as to kis your moft michtie maieftis hand; and feing that it is your moft excellent maieftis pleafour that I fuld ftay heir for ane tyme, the Erlle of Dunbar hes fchauin me that fauour, as to be his prefenter in my abfens, and I uis at God, that his seruice may oe agreable unto your moft michtie maieftie, as I dout not of his affectioun,

\* George, the second Marquis, who, for his loyalty to the unfortunate Charles, of whose cause he had been an uncompromising supporter, was, on the 16th March 1649, tried, condemned, and on the 22d beheaded.

hauing more honour than he meritis, to be sua neir of bluid unto your most excellent maieftie; and for my auin pairt, I haid that honour as to be presentit be his guidcher unto your most michtie maieftie, being ane youth as he is nou, and God forbid that my affectioun or loyaltie fuld faill nou in my auld dayis, to your most excellent maieftie, of quhois constant affection I haue fund sua monie fauours, that all the blood within me being uairit in your most michtie maieftis feruis, can not corespond.\* The Erlle of Dunbar, I hoip, will informe your most excellent maieftie mair amplie of my pairt and meining, quhomwith I haue conferrit at lenth this day, and fering to be tedious, eftir the kiffing maist humblie of your most michtie maieftis hand, I will ever rest

Your most excellent, most michtie, and imperiall  
Maieftis humble subiect, and maist affectionat  
feruitour to the deith,

HUNTLYE.

At Edinbruch, this faxt of Februar [1608?]<sup>†</sup>

To the Kingis most sacred Maieftie.

\* “ After the King was settled on the throne of Great Britain, he governed his kingdom so prudently, that he kept them peaceable so long as he liued. The Marquis of Huntly was several times called by him to London to consult about Scottish affairs; and the last time he was called, being come to his presence, he desired his son, Charles Prince of Wales, to take Huntly by the hand as the most faithful subject (said he) that ever served a Prince, assuring him that so long as he should cherish and keep Huntly on his side, he needed not be very apprehensive of great danger from seditious and turbulent heads in Scotland.”—*The Pourtrait of True Loyalty, exposed in the Family of Gordon.* MS. Advocates’ Library, p. 417.

† This letter has no date; as it mentions, however, the Earl of Dunbar, it must have been written subsequent to the 3d of July 1605 (though placed by Balfour amongst the letters of that year), when George Home, Lord Home of Berwick in England, was elevated to a Scottish Earldom. The Earl of Dunbar died 29th January 1611. In Balfour’s *Annals* the Marquis is said to have sent his son to court, as commanded by the King’s letters of the 15th February.

## LXVI.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 26, [1608?]

PLEIS 3OUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Onderstanding be my good-brother, the Duk of Lennox, that it is 3our sacred maieftis plesfour and uill, that I fuld fend my sone\* unto 3our sacred maieftie, and albeit he be the gretest pairt of the confort quhilk I haue nou during my uarding, zit I will euer prefer 3our sacred maieftis plesfour and uill, till onie of my auin contentments, hoping that 3our sacred maieftie will not be forgetfull of my auld affectionat seruice, nor zit will lat me be ufit with fik rigour as the Puritins of this contrey intendis; for I proteft befor the liuing God, that I carie that affection unto 3our sacred maieftie, that I will hazard my lyfe and my blood in 3our sacred maiefties seruic, athaer within 3our sacred maieftis dominiouns, or againis onie foraner whatsumeur. And feing in this I prooffe ane deutiful and affectionat subiect, I hoip 3our sacred maieftie will not condiscend to my uraik, quhom it hes plesit of 3our sacred maiefteis fauour to mak up, onlie for refusing to fueir that all is true that it plesis the Puritins of this contrey to affirme. Bot feiring to be tedious, I haue impairtid the haill particulars of my affairis to this berar, be him to be declarit unto 3our sacred maieftie at greter lenth. Sua, humblie taking my leive, eftir the kissing of 3our sacred maieftis hand, I will pray the eternall God euer to preferue 3our most sacred maieftie in lang lyf and most prosperous reinge.

3our most sacred Maieftis humbill subiect,  
and most affectionat feruitour to the  
deith,

HUNTLYE.

At Stirling Castell, this 26 of Februar [1608?]

To the Kings most sacred Maieftie.

\* See Gordon's History of the Family of Gordon, vol. ii. p. 109. Edin. 1727. Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 20. Edin. 1824. 8vo.

## LXVII.—THE MARQUIS OF HAMILTON\* TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 1, 1608.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

Your maiestie hauing, vithout ony merit upone my pairt, bot upone your maiesties gracious remembrance of the faithfule devtie and seruice of my fathir and grandfathir, don to your maiestie, and the queen your maiesties mother, vith the graet lofs, not onlie of thair freinis lyuis, bot thair auin blud, banefment from thair cuntrie, ouerthrau of thair housis, and hail fortunis, bontfullie grantit to me the erectioun of Arbroith, according to the infestment of the fame giuen of befor be your hienes to my fathir vnder the Great Seill, and be your maiesties letter vrittin with your royall hand, I thocht, and euer fall think, myself bund to your maiestie, beyond al thie subiectis of this kingdome, amoinst quhom, nane hes reffeuit so great fauor vithout any desert of thair auin; and as this benefeit flouis frome your maiesties only guidnes, so uil I euer affuir my self, that your maiesties fauor will be unchangabill, sa lang as maist humil deutie and seruice fall not fail in me; vhair of being giltles in my hairt, quhilk hes constantly auouit rather to die, nor to giue entrie to any undeutifull thocht, I hop your maiestie vil graciouflie be plefd, uithout offence, to permit me to regraet, that it is heir gifun out, that your maiestie fould haue comandit my infestment to be stayit unexped, till the Laird of Pamuir† and sum otheris obtain satiffactioun, in sik futtis as thay

\* James, second Marquis of Hamilton. Created Earl of Cambridge in England, 16th June 1619; installed a Knight of the Garter, 7th July 1623; and died at Whitehall, 2d March 1625, in the 36th year of his age.

† Patrick Maule of Panmure. Created by Charles I. Earl of Panmure, Lord Maule of Brechin and Navar, 3d August 1646.

mak to my disgrace and preiudice, becaus thay informit your maiestie, that I respect not as becumis me your maiesties benefite, quhan I refus to giue tham ane fether of the guise whilk your maiestie hes so graciousslie giuin me: vheras, if that quhilk is crauit ver bot ane fether, it ver great madnes in me to mak any ceremonie in granting, bote your maiestie hauing ordanit the ministeris to haue thair local stipendis, and ane blanche deutie to be modifiet to be pyed to your maiestie, that living uald thairby be reducit to such estate, as uil hardly furnice me mentinance in the rank vhairuith your maiestie hes bein plesit to honour the hous, quhilk for the present, I unuorthelie posses; and gif that respect maid me, not sumquhat careful of meanis to liue in that rank, I sould rather trail ane pik in the fardest pairt in the vordil, nor contend with the meanest that could be habil to purchas your maiesties recommendatioun; bot nou hauing meikil ado, and my estait being graetlier burdenit nor it may veil bear, I houp and humlie desyre, that your maiestie, at this tyme, vald continou your most gracious fauour towardis me, and suffer that benefiet to be affectual, the grant quhairof proceids of your maiesties royal bounti, and gracious opinioun of the merit and seruice of my predecessors befor I was borne, quhom I fall stryue to equal, and, gif it ver possibil, to exceid in al faithful, humil, constant, euerieuey deuotiful seruice to your maiestie. And at Sanionistoun, I satisfiet the Laird of Pamuir in securiti of his auin teindis, according to the command of your maiesties letter, than send for that effect; sua, quhan tyme and your maiesties gracious fauour fall mend my means and estait, your maiestie fall dispois upon quhat farder your maiestie sal than find that I can possieblie do, uthout my utir ruynd, quhilk I knau affuritly your maiestie vil preuent in your infinit gudnes, the gracious effectis vhairof alreddie resseuit, geuis me assurance that your maiestie vil accept in guid pairt, ane treu declaratioun of the verie estait of that hail mater be my brother Sir Johne Hamiltoun, whom I haue expresselie directit for that purpois. Hoping your maiestie vil graciousslie heir and credit him, and be hime returne that significatioun of your maiesties gracious and princelie vil, quhilk may mak your maiesties former benefite effectual to me, and me abil to serue your maiestie in the rank of my prediceffuris, as I fall be villing, with



maist faithful and reddie affectioun to biftou that, and al the rest that God hes giuen me with my blude, lyf, and freins in your maiesties seruice, according to thair commendabil exempilis, vhairof I fal be moir glad to giue prouif nor promeis, and fal daylie defyr the occasioun to perform the fame, vith als guid hairt as erniftly I beseik God to grant your sacred maiestie long lyfe, perfyt helth, hapie regne, and most bliffit contentment.

Your Maiesties most humbill and  
faithful seruant,

HAMILTON.

Hamiltoun, first Marche [1608 ?]\*

The King his most sacred Maiestie.

LXVIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 5, 1608.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

I tak the occasioun and bauldnes to writte this vnto your hienes, in anfuere off that it pleased your sacred maiestie writte to me the secund of Februar, directing me to deall with my nepvieu, the Erle of Abercorne, that he sould desist from onye farder insisting in fuitte of the

\* The year is not given, and Balfour has placed the letter amongst those of 1606; but as it appears that the Marquis obtained a charter of the lands, patronage, and titles belonging to the Abbey of Aberbrothock, 5th May 1608, it was probably written in the month of March of that year.

Laird of Achindraynis\* forfaulteur, and renunce all benefite and promeis he had of yior maiestie for the same, I could naa better trawell with him in that nor be communicatting yior gracious mynd to him, be the ficht off yior hienes awin letter, whairtoe I hope he hes send yior maiestie ane anfuere, whilk will sufficientlie satiffie your princelie intentioun in this purpose. This I can testifie vnto yior maiestie of certantie, that whafoewir hes informed yior hienes, that the said Erle off Abercorne delt, or wald onye wayes be perswadit to deall, for onye favour or owirfight to the said Laird of Auchindrayne, hes sayde far bye the treuthe, or onye thing hes ewir bene in his mynde. He hes indeed some freindschipt with the hous of Bargenie, whomtoe Achindrayne hes bene this lang tyme a dependar; bott as the hous off Bargenie findis that the said Achindraynis practises was the wrack of the last Laird off Barganye, swa haiff thay be experience off laitt tryed, that he was be all possible meanes working to ondoe that house, and, thairfoir, hes haillilie cassin him off. And this, I assure yior maiestie, that it was be thair speciall moyane, diligence, and industrie, with the assistance of the Erle off Abercorne, that baithe this last treasonable murthour of his, is brocht to the light it is cummed to, and also his foirknauledge, privitie, and persuasioun to the yieung man, Thomas of Bargenie, for the foull murthour of the tutour of Caffills: and without thair doing and insifting, the same will be hardlie yitt brocht to perfectioun and dew outredde in tryall and punischement.

I knaw Achindrayne hes be manye meanes socht to purchefs my Lord Abercornes goodwill, or at least to lay him bye his perswitt, and for that hes cauffed offer him mair nor he can ewer haiff of the benefite off his parsuitte. Bot he hes newir gevin anye ear to sic propositioun, regairding ewer mair yior hienes prencelie intentioun in the profecutioun of justice and pwnischement off sua wylde a fact, and the dewtie off his plaice and estaitt, nor anye commoditie: And this I hope yior maiestie shall find be prooffe to be the veritye and be his actioun, in regaird whereoff he is perswadit certantie, that for naa vrang nor ontrew rapport off anye sic subjects, yior hienes will alter or chaynge your formar prencelie word,

\* See note to Letter from Lord Balmerino, page 132.

grant and benefite, whereoff yieur hienes than thocht him worthie, for he esteymes that war a greater disgraice to him, nor all the mater is awaill. This I remitt alwayes to yieur maiesties heiche wisdome and good resolution, for it may be that schortlie the event may prove the Erle of Abercorne to be the Laird off Achindraynis speciall parfewart, and onlie owir-thraw onder yieur maiesties authoritie and lawis, whilk will manifest the ontreathe off that yieur hienes hes bene informed off. Swa, taking my leive, with the maist humbill kisse off yieur royall hand, restis for ewir

Yiour sacred Maiesties maist humbill and  
affectionat subject and seruitour,

DUNFERMLYNE.

Edinburgh, 5 Marche 1608.

To the King his maist excellent Majestie.

LXIX.—THE LAIRD OF LUSS TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 23, 1608.

PLEAS 3OWR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

I hawe beine wrgit be the counsell to submitt with the McFarlanes my brothers slauchter, and all wther slauchteris, muirtheris, hairschippis, theftis, reiffis, and oppreffiounis, raising of fyre, demolisching of howfis, cwitting and destroying of woods and plaining, committit be thame against me; quhilk submissioun is now become in 3owr ma-

R

iesteis hands.\* And being informit that my Lord of Mar is to infist with 3our maiestie to pronounce ane decreit not onlie upon criminall actiounis, bot also wpon the ciuill actiounis, quhairof I haue obtieinit decreitis alreadie befor the Lordis of Seffioun, extending to the fowme of lxxij thowfand poindis money of Northe Britane, I will maift humbillie befeik 3our maiestie to referwe my decreitis alreadie obtieinit; and quhat fatiffactioun 3our maiestie pleases to decerne to me for the criminall actiounis, I mane hald me content thairwith, gife it be 3our maiestiejs will, that rebelles to 3our maiestie refawe that benefit, for they ar oft and diuers tymis at the horne for all the crymis abowewrytine, and findrie vther crymis not mentionat, wnrelaxit as yet. Requeisting 3our maiestie to tak in gwid pairt this my humbill fwit, hawing nothing els to offer 3our heynes, for all 3our wnderferwit fawouris, bot my most loyall hart, quhilk fall newer deword from the smallest of 3our maiestijs thochtis. This, humbillie craifeing pardoune of this my presumptioun, I pray God grant 3our maiestie, efter ane lang and happie regne, eternall felicitie.

3our Maiestijs most humbille and loyallie  
affectit subiect and ferwand,

ALEXANDER COLQUHOUN  
off Lufs.

Rofdo, the xxijj day of Apryll 1608.

To the Kingis most excellent Maieftie.

\* "The olde feids of blood and slaughter, betuix the Laird of Lusse and the Macfarlans, was in this month (April), by the counsaills mediatione, absolutely submitted to the Kings maiesties determinatione. The Macfarlanes had killed the Laird of Lusses brother, with maney of his friends and followers; casten doune some of his housses, cuttit his woodes, spoyled his landes and tenants, for which he had obtained decreitts against them for grate soumes of money, and had declared them rebells by law." Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. p. 25.

## LXX.—LORD BALMERINO TO KING JAMES VI.

MAY 1608.

PLEAS YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

I refaived your maiestes lettre of the 12 of May the 17, at eight a clok at nicht. The same morning, Sir Alexander Drummond's presentation was gevin in to the seffion, who, with the other tuay competitouris, being called in, and thay refusing to go to tryell, but willingly yealding to his preferment, his tryell was appoynted him, conforme to your maiefties act. And for your maiefties refolutioun anent his religioun, I haif fend heirwith, the testimoniall of his ordinair pastour, whair he hes made his residence thir thre yearis, and of the minister of Abercorne, whair he remainit befor, evir sen he had any duelling. So, I lave to your maiestes most princely confideratioun, out of what malice, ather aganes me or him, this inventioun hes growin: always his admiffioun fall stay, whill it pleis your maiefty to certify your gracious plesur, protesting befor the greit God of heavin, that nather blood nor acquaintance, but knowlege of his ability and inclinatioun to serve, and what neid your maiefty standis in heir of worthy ministeris, did move me both to trayne him up for your service, and finding him capable, to sute his preferments. So, hooping in your maiestes accustomed favour, that my affectioun to your service fall not be turned to my disgrace, and craving pardone of this boldnes, I wish your most sacred maiefty, after a lang and prosperous raygne, eternell felicity.

Your Maiestes most humble and most  
obedient servand,

J. BALMERINCH.\*

\* This letter has no date, but the reference to Sir Alexander Drummond, who was appointed a Judge of the Court of Session, and took the title of Medhope, proves it to have been written in May 1608. Lord Medhope died in July 1619. See Melros Papers, p. 335.

The Erl of Abercorne hes taken Achindrane,\* a most vyill murtherar, partly to kyith his affectioun to your maiesteis service, and to ftop thair mouthes who calumniat him; and he wald be encouraged by renewing your gracious favour, promesit to him befoir, and he will not fail to do bettir service.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

LXXI.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.  
MAY 25, 1608.

SIR,—PLEIS 3OUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

It is nocht possiblie, be lettre, to expres the greiff of mynd quhilk justlie I haue concawed, quhan be the counfall I wes laitlie informit of 3our maiesties discontentment aganis me, proceeding, I dout, no thing of 3our maiestes princie and courtes inclinatioun, quhair of I haue had fo mony and dyweris experiences, bot of sum finifter informatioun of vnfreindis, as giff vndewtefullie I had behauit my selff, ather towardis 3our maiestie, the ministrie, or in contempt of 3our hienes lawes or commandementis, quhilk I haue ewer reuerencit, and falbe to me in heichest commendatioun. For, Sir, it is ane greit regrait to me, that I may nocht pleid my innocencie in 3our maiestes prefens, becaus than I wald nocht feir, but it fould cleirly appeir, and my reuerend respect and obe-

\* The atrocious murders to which this person was accessory form the subject of a Drama by Sir Walter Scott, entitled "Auchindrane, or the Ayrshire Tragedy," and the reader will find in the preface a most interesting abridgment of the chief particulars, Poetical Works, vol. xii. (last edition), 12mo, p. 243. The trial that followed (with various illustrative papers) is given by Mr Pitcairn in his valuable Criminal Trials, vol. iii. 124. Some additional and hitherto unpublished particulars occur subsequently in this volume.

dience to your maiestes laft commandementis be manifestit, quhilk, faueing your maiesties plesour, wes sumquhat hard (all thingis being reichtlie confidderit). Gitt, giff ather bischop or minister can iustlie accuse me of the brek of any poynt of dewetie to thame, I am content to be tryit and puniffit accordinglie; bot be the contrar, giff I haue, with all obedience, obeyit and satisfieit the preceifet of thame, I think thay shold nocht haue sa maliceouslie traducit me to your maiestie, in complening quhair thay haue na caus of complaint. Bot fence no thing I can do can content sum of thame, I most, with all humilitie and reuerence, intreit your hienes nocht to credeitt all thair reportis of me, without ane mair particular tryall. And in this laitt chairge, quhairby your maiestie hes ordanit me to be wairdit in Glasgou, I am most humble to requyre your maiestie, inrespect of the greit indispositioun of my bodie, tending to deathe, as the principall doctouris of medeceane in this cuntrie, be thair testimoniall vnder thair handis, testefit to your maiestie, as thai haue alreddie done to the counfall, to be that gracious to me, that, giff I salbe wairdit, it may ather be in Thomptalloun, Edinburgh, or Leithe, quhair I may haue the help and assistance of phisitians for my seiknes, than in Glasgou, quhilk is ane place verie vnmeit for me, for sondrie respectis, but speciallie for recowerie of my helthe: or giff it fall pleis your maiestie, that I may haue your hienes fauour to pairt frome this cuntrie for ane quheill, for the better preferuatioun of my helthe, I will accept of the same as ane singular benefeit, for sic services as I haue done to your maiestie in tymes bypast. And this, in all humilitie and reuerence, kifs your maiestes princle hand, I humble tak my leiff.

Your Maiestes most humble and  
faithfull subiect,

ERLL OF ANGUS.

Cannogaitt, the 25 May 1608.

To his most sacreid Maiestie.

## LXXII.—THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BURGHS TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 8, 1608.

OUR MAIST GRATIOUS AND SOUERANE LORD,

We refeauet your maiesties lettre direct unto ws, with your maiesties counfallour, Sir Robert Daniellstoun, knight, conseruatour of your maiesties subiects of Scotland in the Law Countries, daittit at Greinwiche, the xv of Junij last; be the quhilk, we wnderstand that your maiestie is informet of sum preposterous cheritabill supplie, gevin be sum merchantis trading in the Law Cuntries to the baneift minifters, with the quhilk your maiestie is discontent, and thairfor willing ws to restraine that wndewtifull impertinent supplie. Your maiestie hes also willit ws to mak na choise of ane minifter, to serue the natioun at the Campheir, without your maiesties knowlege and approbatioun, and siclyk that we fould ratifie the former actis, for establisching the stapill of the natioun at the Campheir. And last, that we fould respect the bearer, quhome your maiestie hes fund trustie in your seruice. Plais your maiestie as to the first, everie ane of ws heir present hes gevin his declaratioun, that he knaws of na kynd of supplie gevin to thais baneift minifters, and we haue ordanit, that all the magistratis within your maiesties burghes fould, be your maiesties authoritie, inhibit and dischaarge all sic supplies in tyme cumming, and that ilk commissiouner fould intymy the samyn to his magistrattis, and caus thame tak heid thairto, and puneisch the offenders sua oft as thay can be knawin. And as to the minifter at the Campheir, we haue determinat and agriet, that nane falbe plaicet thair bot be your maiesties consent and approbatioun; and as to the stapill at the Campheir and conseruatour, we haue tane sic ordour thairwith, as your maiestie hes defyrit. Forder, my Lord Conseruatour hes schawin that your maiestie hes declairit wnto him the caldnes of the burrowis, in not complaining to your maiestie vpoun the frequent resorting of Papistis and



Jesuittis within this realme. We ar greatlie bund to thank 3our maiestie, that hes sic remembrance and zeall of religioun, as to fteir and waikin ws vp to the doing of our dewties; and thairfoir, be the graice of God, expecting 3our maiesties help and concurrence, we falbe mair cairfull to effectuat that pairt of our dewties to our power. And we ar this bauld to requyr 3our maiesties authoritie, with the mair schairp and speidie executioun; and thairfoir, we pray 3our maiestie maist humble to hald hand thairto, and to vrge the remanent magistrattis of the realme to ane mair vigilant cair in dischairging the dewties of thair offices in that behalf, quhilk we dout not but 3e will do. We also ar this humelie to pray 3ou, that ane warrand may be direct to the post maisters betuix Londoun and Edinburcht, to tak the merchant pakkat, to be faiflie delyuerit, as 3our maiestie hes grantit to the Flemyngis, quhilk wilbe ane great farderance to the negotiatioun of 3our maiesties subiectis of Scotland: to the quhilk office of refait and delyuerie of pakattis, we think 3our maiesties subiect, James Bannatyne, resident at Londoun, maist apt and qualifiet. And fua, praying the Lord to multiple 3our maiesties dayis with ws, in ane happie government, we committ 3our maiestie to his mercifull protectioun. Frome Selkirk, this aucht day of Julij 1608.

3our maist humble and obedient subiectis, the  
Commissiouners of 3our Maiesties burghes of  
Scotland, laitlie convenit at Selkirk, sub-  
scriyvand be our commoun clerk of conven-  
tioun at our command.

[*Indorsed.*]

The copy of the lettre sent be the  
burrowes to the Kings Maiestie,  
with Sir Alexander Hay.

LXXIII.—SIR ANDREW MURRAY OF BALVAIRD TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 13, 1608.

MAY IT PLEAS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

I haue bein, be vertew of your heichnes commandement, accusit be the Erl of Dumbar, as gif I haid bein ane most ondwetifull subiect vnto your maiestie, kything the malice of my hart by the vttering of onreverent speiches. Your maiesties informer is Androw Henderfoun, of quhom I will forbear to speak any thing, least I fould seim to haue no better defence nor the accusing of my accuser. The first point of my acusatioun is, that I haue callit your maiesties promisis bot diffimulatiounis, and quhatfoeuer may, by consequence, be inferrit vpon this point, for verificatioun quherof he hes producit vnto the Erl of Dumbar ane letter wrettin by me from Roistoun, the last of March 1604, directit vnto my vnclie my Lord of Scone. The woordes ar theis:—My Lord, efter I had wrettin at lenth vnto your Lordship with Maister David Moray, I haue tryit sum thinges, quherof my dewtie bindes me to aduertife your Lordship. Notwithstanding of that quhilk I wret to you in my last letter, that his maiestie had said vnto my selff concerning you, I fear it be al bot diffimulatioun; quhilk woordes, how far they man be wrestit befor they can proue the thing alledgit, I am persuadit that your maiesties self, without any apologie of myn, will most gratiousslie confider. Neuertheles, to the end your maiestie may the moir cleirlye onderstand how far this malicious imputatioun disagreis from my trew meaning, I will bot schortlie say this meikill. That former letter, quherof I maik mentioun, sent be Maister David Moray, had in it tua pairs. The first was ane declaratioun how your maiestie had not only most gratiousslie admittit me to your presence, bot also gracit me with most fauorabill countenance; and, mairouer, most bountifullie had givin commandement to gif me tua hunderith

pund. The vther part was, that I had rememberit my vncke vnto fundrie of your maiesties counsell and sum of your fauorites, from quhom I had refault great protestatiounis of affectioun vnto him, and as great promissis of freindschip in his adoes. Bot befor the wretting of this last letter (quherof I am now accusit), I was certanlie informit be sum of my vnckes special freindes, that they from quhom I had refault fairest woordes wer his greatest enemies; quhilk mouit me to call their promissis diffimulat, sa that the sence of my woordes ar very cleir after this maner, notwithstanding of that quhilk I wret in my last letter that your maiestie had said and done vnto my self; zet that quhilk I wret concerning my vncke, I tuik it al to be bot diffimulatioun. Gif my former letter wer as weill to the foir to be producit vnto your maiestie as this last is, it wald maik al this matter most cleir. Bot as God schal be my iust judge, I haue set down vnto your maiestie most trewlie beath the contents of the one, and my meaning in the vther. Their fallowes in my letter [I know his maiestie to be as they ar that be about him, and I assuir you, ze haue no fauour of them that ar in greatest credit heir]. To this I answer, that I was neuer sic a fott to think that your maiestie was so simpill to be guydit be them that ar about you. I haue boith hard and fein to muche of your maiesties wisdom and resolutioun to think sa vyld a thocht. Bot my meaning was, seing my vncke had no fauour of them that wer in greatest credit about your maiestie, the quhilk I was most certanlie mead to beleue, therfoir, I greatlie fearit that their hard informatioun might muif your maiestie agenst him, he not being present to answer for him self, and hauing about your maiestie so many enemies. Their rests yet moir in my letter. [I heir say that their is ane turn past heir in fauoures of Androw Henderfoun, into the quhilk your lordschip hes great neid to tak head to your proceding; for, albeit his maiestie hes past it vnto him, I fear it be rather to try how ze behaue your self, nor for any good mynd they had to please Androw Henderfoun]. Theis woordes, I houp, neid no apologie. Befoir God, I had mynd of nothing concerning your maiestie. I know, and that be experience, that all your maiesties grants ar, and haue bein, euer frie and absolut. My only meaning was, of the advantage they that wer about your maiestie might maik of my vnckes behaiour in this

matter; for it was directlie said be sum of them, that he wald content Andrew Henderfoun with a smal pairt, and tak the rest to himself. From this point, it will please your maiestie to consider that the grund of my accusatioun procedeis, and not from that zeal and affectioun my accuser professis to bear vnto your maiestie, or els he had communicat this to your heichnes at the first, and not keipit the sam besyds him thir four zeires and moir, and now at lenth reveilit it be the instigatioun of vther men, as himself pairtly confessis. Their is no man could moir iustlie accuse me vpon this matter nor the Erl of Dumbar, gif his lordschip had knawen my trew meaning, for it was his lordschip of quhom I cheiflie meanit in my letter, and I haue crauit his lordschip most humblie pardoun for that I was so folische vpon any informatioun to beleue that his lordschip thought vtherwayes nor he had said vnto my selff. Gif I durst haue presumit without your maiesties leue, I wald, with prostrating myselff at your maiesties feit, be woord and not be letter, haue mead this my most trew declaratioun, and vnto the tym your maiestie grant me that libertie (quhilk, be thir presents, I most humblie beg at your gracious handes), my hart schal neuer be pertaker of any contentment. Albeit my conscience bears me witnes that I neuer so meikill as thocht onreverentlie of your maiestie, yet am I grevid aboue measour to think that any thing sould haue escapit my hand, quhilk, in the hardest constructioun, can be accomptit for ondedwiffulnes agentst your heichnes. Their is na thing in this world can discontent me moir then to want your maiesties fauour; bot to want it throch my awen iust deseruing, wer to me insupportabill. I wer to be accomptit the most ingrat wrech that euer had lyf, gif euer I had sufferit any such thocht to haue had place within my mynd, considering the manifold faoures your maiestie hes schawen boith to my self, and all my kynred. Their remaines yet the last point of my letter, into the quhilk I maik sum mentioun of my Lord Secretar. My simpill meaning was, that his lordschip at that tym had not so great fauour as he desyrit to haue had of theis that wer in credit about your maiestie. I will cease to trubill your maiestie any moir with my idill woordes, not dowting bot your maiestie will, according to your accustomit goodnes, consider that the affectioun I careit vnto my vncles weill, mead me the moir earnest in my letter; and

gif their be any woordes in it onadvyfit or not weill chofin (as I do confes their is many), your maiestie will imput them to want of witt and laik of discretioun, quhilk euer accompanies youth, and not to malice, quhilk, I protest in the prefence of God, is as far remouit from my hart, as it stiks neir to their hart that does accuise me. Praying vnto the Eternall to grant vnto your maiestie ane moift happie and prosperous regne, and bliffit and lang lyff, I rest

Your Maiesties most humbill and most  
obedient subiect,

ANDRO MORAY  
of Baluaird.\*

Edinbrughe, the 13 of July 1608.

LXXIV.—LORD SCONE TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

I wes conveynit heir befor my Lord of Dunbar, and confronted with Andro Henryfoine, wpoun fume wnreuerend speicheis fpokin be me of your maiestie, quhilkis wer all utterly denyit, in the prefence of Sir Alexander Hay, your maiesties secretar, that euer he haid fpokin or wrettin any thing in my preiudice, ather to your maiestie or ony vther man leiveand, quhilk if I haid euer hard fpokin be ony vther man in the world wncallengit, I nicht bein thocht the onlie wngrate and wnworthie man in the world. Bot I leave this to your maiesteis gracious confideratioune, what all my actiounes hes bein in your maiesteis service, bothe in word and deid, quhairof I will be glaid content to be censuret be my grittest enemeyis. Now, Sir, to qualifie this informatioun of Andro

\* Nephew of Lord Scone, afterwards first Viscount Stormont. He died without issue, Dec. 14, 1624, and was succeeded by his uncle.

Henrysonis, he hes productit ane lettre of my brother soneis, direct fra Inland to me, about the space of four zeiris and ane half sence, at quhilk tyme, your maiestie will be remembrit, I maid eirnist sute to haue haid the fauour to haue remayneit with your maiestie, and to haue haid some place of credit thair, wherannent it pleisit your maiestie to say to me, that your maiestie wold advyse with some of your Inglis counfall, to gett some place to me; and at my waycomeing fra your maiestie, I delt with sik of your maiesteis counfall as came vp with your maiestie, to be my freind in absence, seing all the rest of the Scottis counfall that came with your maiestie wer preferrit to placeis of credit (bot I), of quhome I reffaueit verrie fair promiseis, nocht only to remember your maiestie, bot to be my particular freind, and my brotheris sone beand thair vpon some vther biffineffe of his awin with your maiestie, I desyreit him to hald sic of the counfall as haid promesit to be my freind in remembrance; quhilk he did, according to my directioun, and wrett heir to me to Scotland, with Mr David Murray, that he haid kiffit your maiesties hand, and reffaueit ane verrie gracious ansuer of your maiestie in some of his awin particularis, and haid also remembrit sic of the counfall as I haid desyreit him to speik with in my fauoris, of whome he reffaueit verrie guid wordis and fair promiseis, that thei wold nocht onlie remember your maiestie, and adwyse with thame in the meynis, how some place micht be gottin to me, quhilk letter pat me in hop to beine send for schortlie thairefter; and within fyf or sex dayis efter the receitt of this letter, my brotheris sone wrett to me ane vther letter, produceit now be Andro Henderfone, wheirin he assuiris me, he is certefeit be sum speciall freindis of myne, that the fair promiseis that wer maid be sum of the counfall wes nothing bot diffemulatione, and speciallie of thame that I trustit maist into, forbe some speicheis that he haid hard, he feirit that thei sould rather kyth my vnfreindis, and that your maiestie wes informeit be sic as wer about you, that I haid sent Andro Henderfone to beg sumthing fra your maiestie, that I could nocht mak sute for myself, and quhateuer your maiestie haid grantit to gif him, your maiestie wes informeit, he haid transactit with me for the same, and I wald gett the same to myself. Thir specheis beand reportit be sum freind to my brotheris sone, and he feiring I micht be moveit fra the loue

I buire to Andro Henderfone, to pas his gift quhilk zour maiestie haid grantit to him, and that the fame micht be layd to my chairge sum vther day, and out of the love my brotheris fone buire to me, he gave me this aduertement. And alsfone as this letter came to my handis, I sent it to Andro Henderfone, to the effect that he sould tak na exceptiones of my guidwill, albeit, I haid refuseit to pas his gift in respect of the premissis, bot I gaue him furetie, that I wald deill with zour maiestie for ane benefit to him, quhilk I did, and obtenit of zour maiestie bettir nor fevin hundrethe merkis be zeir, quhilk he possessis presently, quhilk wes thocht be maney of the cuntrie mair nor he meretit: zit, in respect he did zour maiestie no evill, being quhair he micht haue done it (if God haid nocht beine zour maiesteis better freind), and euer fence that tyme I haue reteynit him in my service, and hes protectit him, and euer fall, and he hes haid the commandement of all that I haue in theis partis. Bot zour maiestie will knaw in the awin tyme, that this is nocht come fra Andro Henryfone, for he wes neuer very wyfe, and he hes lost ane guid pairt of the witt quhilk he haid, for it appeiris he is nocht his awin man, for the quhilk I ame maist forey, and I will neuer tak me to him for ony thing that can be reportit of me to zour maiestie, and in the awin tyme, zour maiestie will knaw how this comeis, fra quhome, and how this pure man hes beine abuseit. Always, I man leave this and all my vther actionis, bothe in word and deid, to zour maiesteis gracious consideratioune, fra the first tyme I haid the honour to serve zour maiestie, quhilk is threttie tua zeiris fence, and I neuer haid caus to weyrie, for zour maiestie hes nocht onlie honorit me, bot gevin me all I haue in the world, and brocht me vp fra nothing, and if I sould prove vngratte and wnthankfull to sa gracious a maister, I mereit punesment aboue all tratouris in the world. Sa, wiffing zour maiestie all happines, with the contenance of zour maiesteis guid helthe,

I rest zour Maiesteis humill and obedient  
servitour,

SCENE.\*

\* This letter has no date, but this is in a manner fixed by the preceding one from his Lordship's nephew. Both these documents refer particularly to Andrew Henderson, who was said to be the

## LXXV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 3, 1608.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

Be your heighnefs directioun, yior trustie and faithfull feruitour, and my awin auld freind, my Lord Earle off Dumbar, communicat unto me yisterday yior majesteis lettir, concerning fuim opinioun that yior maiestie fould haue confaued, that I entertenie fuim purpoifs and communicatioun, ather direclie or indireclie, be interchange off lettirs with yior sacred maiesties worthie, maist nobill, and darrest bedfallow, in maters tuiching yior heighnefs estait heir, and yior maist speciall and maist confident seruantis.\* I thocht the said lettir (for I had bot a fhiort wieu off it) baith lang, pitthie, and passionat, as I nather will nor can denie bot thair war maist iust cause to yior heighnefs, to be offendit at me in all heigheft degree, gif euer it had entred in my minde, to attempt to medill in ony sic thing, or to haue ony fik trafik in your heighnefs affaires. I am forced, in all humilitie, to entreat yior heighnefs excufe me, that I can nocht mak fik purgatioun off this crime be my lettir, as it wald require, gif I war onye wayes giltie off the fame; for I protest unto yior sacred maiestie, ondir quhais prencelie fauour, clemencie, and pro-

person that detained the King in cnstody at Gowrie House. Some writers assert that he was, although absent, examined to corroborate the King's statement, the truth of which was questioned, in the belief that the circumstance of his having been Lord Gowrie's Chamberlain would add weight to his testimony. Others contend that he was really present on the occasion. There certainly are some slight differences in the King's narrative and Henderson's deposition; but we really think that too much stress has been attached to them. Indeed, unimportant discrepancies in evidence, where the main facts agree, frequently tend rather to remove than create suspicion of collusion. However the fact may have been, Henderson was the gainer, as, besides other gifts, according to this letter he had an annual allowance of 700 merks—a very handsome income in those times.

\* These real or snpposed intrigues are not noticed, so far as the Editor has been able to ascertain, by any of the contemporary writers.



tectioun, and be quhais onlye aduancement and instructioun I haue attained to all the knowledge and experience I haue in the affaires of this estaitt, and am raffin in this fortown I am in, far aboue my merite, vpon that faith and treuth I aught baith unto God and to yior maiestie, albeit I be euin at this present in als greate a passiou as eiuier I haue bein in, for the maist manifest and greate wrangs of calomneis I haue susteined in this Generall Assemble, as I doubt nocht bot yior heighness, in yior heigh wisdome and iustice, will off yior self wye and confidder: yit came thair neiuier to me fik a greiff in hairt and minde, as I refaued be yior heighness foresaid lettir, be the aprehensioun I tak yior heighness sould suspect ony fik thing off me. It has wounded me sua, that it has putt me fra all other thocht or cair; for as I wald think myself onwordie to be leiuand, gif I haid committed sa filthe an errour, sua man I diddane baith my lyff and haill estaitt, sa lang as I am in feare my maist gracious fouerane has onye suspicion, I be onye wayis giltie of sa abominabill crime. This aprehensioun troublis sua euin my witt, that it can nocht furnish me purgations ansurabill in onye measure to my desire; and gif I wald sett down to yior maiestie, all the purgations that my iust dolour and greiff presentis unto me, I could nocht mis to be importune, tedious, and troublifuim. I hoipe I haue be toung satisfieit my Lord Earle of Dumbar, and he has shiawin me, he hoiped in this point to satisfie yior sacred maiestie.

This onlye I will craue yior heighness pardon to wryte planelie as I meane, as I sould ansuer unto God, nixt to that deutie I aught to God, according to my knowledge, I eiuened nor equaled neiuier na thing in this world to yior maiesties fauour, and I preferred nor wyed neiuier in paragon onye thing with yior heighness plesour, contentment, or honour, nor thinks neiuier to doe. The werye calomneis, and malicious delations, geuin fwrth at onye tyme against me self, greiuis me nocht sa meikill for onye entreffs off my awin, as for the consequence thairoff, may redound on yior sacred maiestie, that it sould be thocht yior heighness greate wisdome, may haue bein sua filed and abused in the preferrement off fik a man, and on ony iust occasioun, had bein or war ministrat be me thair-off, I wifs rather I war dissolued in dust, and had neiuier bein.

This I maist humblie, hairtlie, and fincerlie craue of yiorr heighnefs prencelie difpositioun to think off me, till in yiorr greate wifdome and iuftice yie trye ony contrair. Sua, maist humblie taking my leiuie, with the kifs of yiorr facred hand, and praying fra my hairt the Eternall lang to preferue yiorr heighnefs in all blifs and prosperitie, I reſte eiuer

Your ſacred Maieſties maist humbill and obedient  
ſubject and ſeruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 3<sup>o</sup> Aug<sup>ti</sup> 1608.

To the Kingis maist excellent Maieſtie.

LXXXVI.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 10, 1608.

PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

I haue bein this langtyme confyned in Glasco, ane part far frome my leifing and freindſchip, quhair be the daylie reſort of ſome of my enimies and euill willaris ſome vnhappie truibill may fall furthe, by my will, and without my knowlege; and now the Generall Affembillie hes giſſin furthe ane act to excommunicat me, befor the xvij day of September. Quhat greif and forrow this bringis to my hart, God knawis; becaus my graitteſt cair hes ewir bein, and falbe, that I myght end my dayes (quhilk, I am perſuadit, ſall not be many) at peace with God, and in your maieſties obedience. My dewtifull affection to your hienes commandementis I remitt to your maieſties memorie, and my queat behauior in religioun, the preſbiteries quhair I remannit can beir record; for I beleif your maieſtie hes not hard ony complainttis of me, in particular, ſens your maieſties pertting frome Scotland. Newir the lefs, as I am informit the kirk intendis to wſe ane ſommer proceſs againſt me, except that your

gratius maiestie find out, and grant me some remeid. The permission quhilk of graice only I craue (gif it pleis not your hienes to ease me with ane better) is, ether to depert this cuntrie, conforme to your hienes licence all redie grantid, with furtie not to returne; or els, that it wald pleis your maiestie to confyne me within ane of my awin houffis, and so many myllis about the fame, quhair I am glaid to leif as ane priuat subiect, and newir to medill me with publiēt affairis, bot be your maiesties directioun. The experience of your maiesties accustomat clemencie towardis me imbauldis me to this heumbill petitioun, and gif it war not the estait and a matter of conscience, I protest befor God, I wald haue bein laith to haue truiblit your maiestie with sic fuittis; and yet ane thing I moift humblie intrait your maiestie to mak deference of men, conforme to thair deseruing: and thus, in kissing your maiesties princle hand, I pray God to fend your maiestie lang lyf, and prosperus reign.

Your Maiesties moift heumbill and  
obedient subiect,

ERLL OF ANGUS.

Glasco, the 10 of August 1608.

To the King his moft excellent and gracious Maiestie.

LXXVII.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 12, [1608?]

PLEIS YOUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Having haid from my zongest zeiris that good hap and honour, as to be acceptit in your moft sacred maiestis seruis to be the mediatioun of the last Duk of Lenox, your maiestis moft fauorit coufing and seruiteur, and fins that tyme I leiuie it to your sacred maiestis auin super naturall wisdom and memorie, to remember gif I haue not at all tymis giuin proof of my affectioun, loyaltie, and obediens, quhanfoeur

T

it hes plefit 3our sacred maieftie till honour me uith 3our commandements ; and nou, finding my eftait endangerit, and my urak focht, be more rigorous deling than I was informid 3our sacred maieftie did requeir of me, I am forfit to feik quhar I haue euer lenit to the anker of my refuge, quhilk is 3our sacred maieftis fauorable clemencie, befeiking 3our sacred maieftie not to condiscend to the ruine of him quha hes nathaer lyf, land, nor blood bot it that falbe uairit but exceptionun, quhanfoeuer 3our sacred maieftis feruis fall requer the fame, hoping that 3our sacred maieftis constancie and fauour, quhilk is the ftoup of my repos, fall beir me throch this trubill, as it hes borne me throch greater heirtofor. And albeit I knau I haue monie craftie euilluillars to deill in my contrar, and my felf far diftant from 3our sacred maieftis comfortable prefens, zit I defyd not of 3our sacred maieftis fauorable constanfcie towards me, feing my affection and obediens falbe continuall. Therfor, Sire, dispos of me as fall best pleis 3our sacred maieftie, for I fall haue no uill of myn bot till abey 3ouris; nathaer defyr I to leiuie langer gif it be not to ferue and content 3our sacred maieftie: fo I will befeik 3our most sacred maieftie till put me till fum constant stand out of this continuall trubill, for one uord of 3our sacred maieftis uill uirk my peace, quhilk is the onlie reuard I craiue for my long feruis bygaine. I haue directit ane kinsman of myne, berar heirof, till declare unto 3our facret maieftie mair particularlie my eftait, gif it fall pleis 3our sacred maieftie till honour him uith 3our prefens. Sua, craiuing pardoun for my baldnes, efter the kiffing maift humblie of 3our sacred maieftis hand, I uill pray the Eternall God to preferue euer 3our most sacred maieftie in lang lyfe, and most prosperous renge, uith all contentment.

3our most sacred Maieftis humble fubie&t and  
most affectionat feruiteur to the deith,

HUNTLYE.

At Aberdein, this tuelt of Auguft.

To the Kings most sacred Maieftie.

## LXXVIII.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 18, 1608.

MOST GRACIOUS SOUERANE,

We reffaued your maiefteis lettre, concerning your heynes direction to call befor ws fuche lawyeris as fett thair handes to that forme of Hairtlydis caife\* sent vp to your heynes, and to proceid aganis thame accordinglie; wherin, we wer most cairfull to haif gevin vnto your maieftie fatiffaëtioun; bot becaus we wantit the principall lettre whiche wes subscribed be the lawyeris,† wherby we myght haif led a formall proces aganis thame, we haif sufferit that mater to rest, quhill it fall pleis your maieftie to caus the principall be fend doune, at whiche tyme we fall so proceid in that mater, as we fall gif vnto your maieftie fatiffaëtioun. We haif conferrit with some three or foure of the principallis of the aduocatis, who seameth to misknow the tennour of the lettre and wryte send vp, so that we could find no mater nor purpois wherupoun to challenge thame. Thair hes bene a petitioun gevin in to your maiefteis counsaill be the

\* Margaret Hartsyde or Hertsyde, spouse of John, afterwards Sir John Buchannan, was, 10th August 1608, convicted of stealing some of the jewels of Queen Anne, declared infamous, and banished to Orkney. See Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, vol. ii. p. 544. In December 1619, the King by his warrant ordered the declaration of infamy to be expunged from the record; at same time stating that she had been, "by the sinisterous information of certain of her vnfriends for the tyme, persewit criminalle." Balfour, in his Annals, says that the "courtiers talked" she was punished "for reuelling some of the Queen's secretts to the King, wich a wysse chalmbermaide wold not haue done." Annals, vol. ii. p. 26.

† This letter has not been recovered. The "prelocutoures for the pannel" were Mr William Oliphant, afterwards Lord Advocate; Mr, afterwards Sir Thomas Hope; Mr Alexander King, an eminent advocate, who, however, according to Robert Johnstoun's account, Hist. Rerum Britt., folio, p. 231, usually bribed the judges with a portion of the fees he received from his clients; and Mr John Russell; Mr Robert Buchannane, minister at the Kirk of Ceres; Mr William Buchannan, minister at Methven. The two latter were probably relatives.

burrowis, craving a restrent to be maid of the tranfporting of burnecoill; bot becaus findrie of your maiefteis liegeis hes gottin licenceis for tranfporting of coillis, in confideratioun of the great chargeis and expenffis whiche thay haif fuftenit, and daylie vndirlyis in wyning and vpholding of thair coilheuchis, we haif differred the anfuering of thair petitioun till the knowlege of your maiefteis pleafour, we being loath to quarrell your maiefteis licenceis without your maiefteis allowance. And fua, moft humelie recommending your facred maieftie, and all your royall progenye, to Godis divyne protectioun, we reft

Your Maiefteis moift humble and obedyent  
fubiectis and feruitouris,

AL. CANCELL<sup>s</sup>.

LOTHIANE.

SANCHAR.

ELPHINSTOUN.

BLANTYRE.

J. BALMERINOCHE.

ROSS.

JAMES HAY.

18 Auguft 1608.

To the Kingis moft excellent Maieftie.

LXXIX.—THE REVEREND ROBERT DURIE TO KING JAMES VI.

OCTOBER 21, 1608.

PLEAS 3OUR MAIESTIE,—MOST DREAD SOVERANE,

I have hard of lait that 3our maieftie hes conceaued a new offence againft me, be occafione of a fpeech which (as is reported) the Conferuatour hes fpoken to 3our hienes of me, namelie, that I fuld hav faid to him, be way of traducing 3our hienes, that 3our maieftie gave way to the rebellione in Irland, to the end 3our hienes mycht feem con-

straingned to grant toleration to the Papiftes; wherein, if he or any vther hes fo reported of me, both your maieftie and I fuffer great wrong. If ther had been fuch curfed intentione in me as to traduce your maieftie (which the fearcher of all heartes knawes wes and is fare fra my heart), it is not probable that I wald hav done it to fuch a perfone, who I know fo reverences and affectes your maieftie, according to his bound dewtie. It is trew that, becaufe I wes in conference with me Lord Conferuitore, and having occafione to be among ftrangeres who wer talking of the oversight and places that Papiftes hes vnder your hienes, and remembering how it wes fpokin of, that Papiftes had great credit, materes of Yrland wer not much regairded, and that the number of Romifhe Catholickes did greatlie growe, this, faid thay, apparentlie myght bring in libertie of Poprie, ather be neceffitie or be fome courfe of policie. Now, becaufe the Conferuator is one of your hienes councele, and myght fom tyme have occafione to fpeak a word in feafone to your hienes, how ftrangeres fcanfes of thinges that thay heir, and fo myght giv councele for remeading fuch thinges as any way myght feem to hinder the growth of your maiefties honorable and glorioufe eftimation among the godlie; theirfore, be way of information and report of the fpeech of vtheris, I did report fecretlie, none being witnes betwix him and me bot God, what wes fpokin be vtheres, lyk as, if I had been in credit myfelf, and cowlde have found convenient opportunitie at that tym, I wald have thought it my dewtie to have craved pardone of your hienes, to have fpokin to your maieftie all that I fpak to the Conferuatour, lyk as fra my heart, I defire the increfe of your hienes good eftimation, and wald have everie thing removed that may hinder the growth of the famyne. In end, it wes subjoyned, that I trusted the rebellione in Yrland fuld move your maieftie to tak fuch ordour, that all thefe doubtles fuld be takin out of menes myndis. This, Sir, is the fimple trewth of that mater, and if ather the Conferuatour or any vther (yet, to my remembrance, I had na fpeech of fuch mater bot with him) hes fpokin vther wayfe, the thing I faid is far miftakin, and that which I reported as the fpeech of another, be way of information, is given out to your maieftie in my nam, be way of affertione. Heerof it proceedes, that the thing done be me with a dewtifull and reverent affec-

tion of heart toward your hienes, is imput to me as if I had traduced my lord the king, which God and men knawes my heart hes ever abhored to do to any, bot much mor to my foverane lord. Alwayse, Sir, it will please your maiestie to tak notice of the purpose of my heart in this mater, as also of the circumstances in vttering my dewtifull affection to your hienes estimation, and what your maiestie judges that I haue offendit in any circumstance in this mater, as I shall wnderstand thair of, I will in all humilitie of heart acknowlegd and crave pardone for the same, perswaded that the trewth of that mater being knawin as it wes, your maiestie will never imput it as any giltines to me, bot (according to my earnest defyre) freelie forgive whatfoever oversight that, throw my simplicitie and good intentione, may accidentlie have eschaped me heirin. Now, I beseech the Lord to blife your maiesties royale persone and government, with your queen and princelie posteritie, with all good blifinges for this lyf, and that which is to come, and establissh your throne vnto the coming of our Lord in the cloudes, to fet all thinges in ordour, Amen.

Your Maiesties loyall and faythfull subject, humble  
supplicant, and daylie oratoure,

MR ROBERT DURIE.\*

Middelbrughe, the 21 of October 1608.

\* Formerly Minister of Anstruther. He was one of the Ministers indicted for high treason in 1606, and convicted by the management of the Earl of Dunbar. See Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 10, and M'Crie's Life of Melville, Edin. 1824, 8vo. vol. i. p. 119. After being imprisoned fourteen months in Blackness Castle, he was banished to France. Subsequently he became Minister at Leyden, and died there in the year 1616.



LXXX.—THE REV. PATRICK SYMSONE TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 10, 1608.

DREADE SOUERANE,

The returning of sum of the commiffionares of the Generall Affemblic lailie frome zoure maieftie, togidder with thair reporte of zour hienes gracious acceptatioun bothe of thame felfis and of thair commiffion alfo, hes nocht onlie wrocht grite ioy in our hairtes, bot alfo hes incuragit ws to prefent vnto zour maieftie moft humbill and hairtie thankis for zour hienes moft fauorable countenance, and gracious acceptatioun fairfaid. Becaus the gritteft bliffing that our hairtes could haif wiffchit, wes to fie in our tyme one God trewlie worfchippit, one king dewtifullie feruit, one law reuerentlie obeyit, one faithe and religioun allanerlie, vnfenzetlie profeffit within this realme, this bliffing (we fay), quhilk our hairtes fo earneftlie wifhit to fie throuche zour maiefties gude inclinatioun to advance the trewth of God, is liklie to attene to ane grittare mefour of perfectioun then euer we could haif expected in our dayes. Oure pairte falbe (Godwilling), by all humbill feruice, dewtifull obedience, and reuerent fubiection, to glaid the harte of our Souerane Lord, to the end zour maieftie do nocht this worke with greif, bot with ioy and full contentment of mynd, and lykewyis with our eirneft fupplicationes to ftrenthen zour maiefties handis, that poware may cum frome above to mak zour hienes authoritie feirfull to all the profeffit enemies of Chrifteis gofpell, bothe within and without the cuntrie. And albeit we could neuer as yit attene to the perfectioun of the beft forte of wyfe cheldrene, quha haif careit thame felfis fo dewtifullie toward thair father, that in all thair lyfytyme thay haif nocht procured ane angrie looke of thair fatheris countenance, nor yet ane fcharpe ftrype frome thair fatheris handis, yit we fall indeuoir (God willing) to be in the fecund rank of wyfe cheldrene, quha walkis circumfpectlie and warlie, fering, frome thair hairtis, to gif iuft caus of offence to thair gracious and loving father. Zour maieftie, according to zour wounted clemencie, will pitie infirmitie in zour humbill feruandis, and punifhe proude malice in zour enemies, quha have pre-

fumit (as we heare) to cast furthe, to the vew of the worlde, railing writingis against my Lord the King; bot the foule of my Lorde the King fall be bounde in the boundell of lyf withe the Lorde thy God, and the foule of thy enemeis fall God cast out of the midle of ane sling, 1 Sam. 25; quha difpyfes gouernament and ar presumptuous, and stand in thair awin conceate, and feare nocht to speake evill of thame that ar in authoritie, 2 Pet.; quhais custome also it is to stand far af, to barke lyke doggis against godlie princes, fearing to be beatine with the staff of lauchfull authoritie, gif they approche neare. Thairfoir, most gracious fouerane, we humblie intreate your maiestie to count this to be ane pece of the rebuke of Chrifte, quhilk fall purches to your hienes in this worlde ane sure and steadfast hous, and, in the worlde to cum, ane wecht of vn-speakable glorie, and so muche the rather, nocht to tak fuche railing speches greuoullie, becaus the Lord hes maid your maiestie wyfe, lyke ane angell of God, to knowe good and euill; and with the pithe of your maiesties royall pen, to be als feirfull to all learned for ane aduer-fareis, as, by the stenthe of ane lauchfull and sattled authoritie, to dantoun all intefte and domestike rebellis. Finallie, we humblie entreate your maiestie to beare with our boldnes and rudenes as ane father dois with his awne babes, quha lykes better of the blobering speches of his awine cheldrene proceding frome love, then of all the painted eloquence of his haitfull enemeis. This, in all humbill maner wifhing to your maiestie long lyfe and ane prosperous ringne, we cease to impefhe your maiesties eares with farder wordes.

Your Maiesties humbill feruandis, the Brethren  
of the Presbiterie of Striuling, subscriuand  
be ane of thair nember, at thair command.

PATRIK SYMSONE.\*

Striuling, the tent day of Nouember 1608.

To his Maiestie.

\* Minister of Stirling. He wrote a History of the Christian Church, originally published at Edinburgh in 4to, by Andro Hart, and afterwards at London, 1624, folio.

LXXXI.—THE REV. JOHN HALL AND THE REV. PETER HEWATT  
TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 15, 1608.

PLEASE YOUR MAJESTIE,

After our former letters, our supplication written in the favours of the town here, some thing was done be them for your majesties contentment, wherewith we thought good to acquaint your highnes. They, perceiving your majesties displeasure to arise upon their former election of a provest, did hasten to some speedie remedie that their offer of amending shuld not be compted verball only, and have this day, the fiftteenth of this instant November, made election of Sir John Arnot to be their provest for the yeir to come. Whilk doing of theirs dois furnish to us greater boldnes with your majestie, and makis us with the greater earnestnes to renew our former humble sute, that it may please your majestie accept of this amends, with our promise, in their name, of greater warinesse in all tyme cumming. It hes ever bene your majesties custome to gaine by clemencie, and recall offenders, gif their pertinacie did not thrav from your majesties hand rigour and extremitie. Upon this your majesties clemencie, wee rest in this particular, that, having to doe with them who are feared in any fort to incurre your majesties displeasure; and whose only frowning keepis them in sufficient aw, there may be, instead of your majesties hatred or anger toward them (where at their unfriends wald rejoice), a continuance of your majesties woonted love and favour. Thus, craving pardon for our boldnes, we humblie tak our leave.

Your Majesties most humble and obedient subjects,

JO. HALL.

MR P. HEWATT.

Edinburgh, 15 November 1608.

To the Kings most excellent Majestie.

## LXXXII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

DECEMBER 2, 1608.

MAIST SACRED SOUVERAINE,

Following to my powar your maieftis princelie intentioun, and the good exemple we had of your hienes, when the licht of your prefence and wifdome was heir fchyning amongs ws, for tryall off thir wild murtheris of the Laird of Cuilzeane, Tutour of Caffills, and Williame Dar-rumple, parfewit be the Erle off Caffills aganis the Lairdis off Achin-draine, eldar and youngar, I have bene cairfull to vfe all the moyanes our lawis and praëctique wald permitt me, at the pairteis defire. This laft oulke, with my Lord Archebifchope off St Androis, the Juftice Clerk, Priuie Seall, Lord Whittinghame, Sir Jhone Arnote, and your maieftis aduocat, I examinat diuers dayes baithe the lairdes, and fome other witneffis, wpon interrogatouris werie pertinent to the triall of the purpois, whilk war alwayes impertinent to truble your maieftie withall. We find thame obftinatlie refolved to denye all nicht ather concerne the fact, or ony thing nicht giff licht to mak thame guiltie thairoff. Bot thair anfuers ar fic, and the yieung laird in fic contrarietie with his formar depositions in principall poynts, and fic contrarieties betuix the father and the fone in werie materiall poynts, as the faids anfwers in our examinatioun weyed with thair going to the horne, when thai war firft challenged for the crime, thair daylie intercoumoning with thair man Ballentyne, who hes tayne the cryme on him, and is fugitive thairfoir, and with innumerable other circumftances, maid ws all to think in our confciences thaj war baithe guiltie. Notwithstanding whereof, knowing parfytelie giff thaj had presentlie bene putt to ane affife, wpon thair awin denyall thaj wald haif bene clenged, be aduysed off fecret counfall, I have continowed the day off law to Februar nixt, to tak farder inquisition in this mid tyme, and to have farder aduerteifment from your facred

maiestie whow to proceed in that mater, or giff it be your hienes will the justice be ordoned to proceed to onye extraordinar forme in triall of theese factis, feing thaj carie sic extraordinar and barbarous example, the last being the murthour off ane pure boy, onlye to cover the guiltines of the first murthour of the tutour of Caffills, sic a blood as may continowallie crye to heaven aganis the haill land, till it be purged. The criminalls ar still keped in waird. The crime off the awin nature is be act of Parliament trafoun, murthour onder trust.

Heirin attending your maist gracious maiesteis prencelie ordonance and commandements, praying for all felicitie to your highnes in a long and prosperous regne, fwa restis

Your sacred Maiesties maist humbill and obedient  
subiect and feruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.

Edenburgh, 2d December 1608.

To the King his maist excellent Maiestie.

LXXXIII.—THE EARL OF CASSILLIS TO KING JAMES VI.

DECEMBER 3, 1608.

MAIST SACREED SOUERANE,

It may pleis your gracious maiestie, I haue taikin this bauldnes, vpon the farder tryall of the trechrous murthouris of my vncle, the Laird of Culzeaine, and of the boy quha careit the lettir of his dyett, committit be the Laird of Auchindraine and his sonne, and now farder cleirit be the greit paine and cayr of my Lord Chancelare, quha hes broicht thame to fik contrarietie in thair depositionis, that all indifferent

men may be perfwadit off thair guyltines of baith thais murthouris, notwithstanding quhair of thaj ftill continew in ane denyall. I wald maift humelie befeik your maieftie, that it may be your maiefteis gracious plesoure to graunt ane warrand to the chancelar and counfall of Scotland to putt thame to the buittis, quhairthrow thaj may be broicht to the mair evident confeffioun. So, maift hartlie vyffing your maiefteis lang prosperitie and happines for euer, I remane

Your Maiefteis maift humbill feruant  
and fuieft,

CASSILLIS.

Edinburgh, the thrid of December 1608.

To the King his maift excellent Maieftie.

LXXXIV.—LORD BLANTYRE TO KING JAMES VI.

DECEMBER 17, 1608.

MAY IT PLEIS YOUR MOST GRATIOUS MAIESTIE,

To lett my feiknes thir tuentie dayis excuife maift humlie to your hienes my lang delay in acquenting your maieftie with that, quhilk, I perfwade me, is cum or now to your most sacred earis, how haifing be your maiefteis most loving and gracious aduife, endit with your maiefteis coufing the Erle of Athole anent his erldome, in prefence of his neareft and best affected freindis to the ftanding of that house, and with thair approbatioun and allowance, as the minut of our appointment fent to your hienes trustie counfalour and secretar, Sir Alex<sup>r</sup> Hay, will mair at lenth informe your maieftie, he notwithstanding, vpone the xxvij day of November laft, retired him fra my companie to the Maifter of Tullibardin,

the Laird of Graunt, and Mr. James Stewart, commiffar of Dunkeld, all tryfted togidder to meit him quietlie at Sterling, and to tranfport him, as thay haif done, to the boundis of Athole, thair to difturbe the peciabill and quiett eftait, quhilk be your maiefties commiffioun we haid fattled in thais pairtis, and to vndoo, gif it culd ly in him, quhat is perfytted and concludit betuix him and me with his faid freindis aduife, leaving me in the mean tyme ingadgit for him in mair nor fourtie thowfand markis vpon the foirend of our bargane. In this defeing, quhat wrang is done to your maieftie your hienes will eaffelie confidder, gif it may pleis you to be rememberit, how, quhen it pleafed your maieftie, out of your gracious cair to that your coufingis weill, to frie him of his ftraiteft waird, and to fend for him, and honour him with your gracious prefence at Quhythall, your maiefties pleafour at that tyme was to deliuer him to me befor your hienes darrest and moft faithfull coufingis, the Duke of Lennox and the Erle of Dumbar, and to confyne him in my company till your maieftie fould quiett his eftait, commanding him in the mean tyme to gif me his hand in pledge, that he fould not efcape till he wer fred be expres warrand from your maieftie; and how I, at that time conceating that quhilk is fallin out, maift humlie prayed your maieftie to tak his hand your felff to that effect, for he mycht brek to me, bot he wald be advyfit or he did fo to your maieftie, quhilk your hienes was pleafed to do accordingle, with ane affurance to him, that as your maieftie had bene moft gracious and fauorabill to him heirtofor, and fo was myndit to continew, gif he wald follow and relie to your advife and counfale in his turnis, and keip him quiett in my companie, fa gif he meanit to efcape at any tyme without your hienes preuitie and warrand, your maieftie wald leave him to him felff, and lett your lawis haif courfe and executioun aganis him, quhilk, be a folempne aith, he fwore befor your maieftie neuer to incur be that occafoun. This I beleving to be fo fuire a band as neidit no attendance on him for his keiping, was content to lett him ryde or go vpon his word quhair he thocht meit; lykas vpon the foir-faid day, requiring leave of me to ga to Glasgou for his pafstyme, imbra-ceit that occafoun to keip his tryft at Sterling, and to accompanie his tryfteris thairfra toward Athole, pretending to the world for his excufe

your maiefties warrand and allowance for that courfe, cairles in the meantyme baith of his honour, ingadgit be his aith and hand to your maieftie to the contrair, and of his dewtie to myfelf, quhome for his honorabill and freindlie vſage thir twa zeiris bigane in my cumpanie, he myndis to requyte with ane vndouted wrak to me and myne, except your hienes interpone your preſent help for our releiff. Maift humlie thairfore beſeiking your moſt gracious maieftie to lett this dowbill wrang done to your hienes be that man and his intyferis to this courfe be recommendit in a ſpeciall maner to your maiefties counfall heir, defyring thame to tak ſick ſcharpe and ſpedie ordour for the repairing thair of, as your maieftie may find thame to reſpect it according to your intereſt, and as your maiefties awin cauſe; and, in the meintyme, to direct thair chairges to his convoy for his repreſenting befor thame, and, failzeing thair of, to enter thair awin perſonis in feuerall wairdis till he be repreſented; quhairin your maieftie ſhall baith mak thair attempt in this a terrour to all vtheris to abuſe your ſacred preſence to ſic turnis in tyme cuming, and mak the commoun benefite of your hienes lawis effectuell for my releif of the great debt and troubill quhairin I haif involuit me for his occaſioun. Hoiping for your maiefties maift gracious and ſpedie anſwer, maift humlie I tak my leiff, beſeiking God to fend your maieftie moſt prosperous and mony dayis, and ane happie regne,

Your Maiefties maift humbill ſubject  
and ſervitour,

BLANTYRE.\*

Edinburgh, the xvij of December 1608.

To the King his moſt ſacred Maieſtie.

\* Walter Stewart, the only ſon of the ſecond marriage between Sir John Stewart of Minto and Margaret Stewart, daughter of James Stewart of Cardonald. He was bred up along with James VI. under Buchanan, and was much favoured by that monarch, from whom he obtained the priory of Blantyre. He held various high appointments, and on 10th June 1606 was created Lord Blantyre. Carmichael's Tracts on the Peerage, p. 28. He died 8th March 1617.



## LXXXV.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 16, 1609.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

We haif reffaued, to oure exceiding grite conforte, that decret and sentence gevin in fauouris of the Lord Coluillis oy,\* in the questoun and subiect of Post Nati, agitat thair befor the reuerend and learned iudgeis of that land, wherin, with all dew reuerence and most humble thankis, we acknowlege oure selffis infinitelie bundin to your sacred maiestie for that gracious, respectiue, and comfortable consideratioun and remembrance whilk your maiestie hes of ws, and of euerie thing whilk may importe the honnour, credite, and publiēt goode of this your maiesteis antient kingdome; wherof, as we haif daylie innumerable prooffis, and most lyvelie experienceis, so this lait sentence, whilk no doubt hes had the concurrence of your maiesteis most rair and excellent iudgement, is moir nor sufficient to assure ws, with what tender cair and faderlie consideratioun your maiestie doeth affect ws. We haif delyuerit that sentence and decret to the Clerk of Register, to be putt be him in your heyneis register, thair to remane as a recoird and memorie to the posteriteis of

\* James, second Lord Colvill of Culross, who succeeded his grandfather, the first Lord, in 1620. He was born probably after the accession of James to the throne of England, by which means, according to the decision of the judges, as one of the *Postnati*, he became entitled to the privileges of a natural-born Englishman. His Lordship having died without issue, in the year 1620, the title, in consequence of a remainder to the heirs-male whatsoever of the patentee, devolved on John Colvill, nephew to the first Lord, but who never assumed it, and it remained dormant until, by a resolution of the House of Peers, it was resolved, 27th May 1723, that "John, Lord Colvill of Culross, is entitled to the honour and dignity of Lord Colvill of Culross, and ought to be placed in the list or roll of peers, according to the date of the patent creating Sir James Colvill a peer, 20th January 1609." Robertson's Proceedings, p. 115.

your maieſteis benignitie, and vnſpeakable affection borne to this eſtate. And ſua, moſt humelie praying God ſtill to manteyne and preſerue your maieſtie, with all your royall progenye, in all happynes and felicitie, we reſt for ever

Your Maieſteis moſt humble and obedyent  
ſubiectis and ſeruitouris,

AL. CANCELL<sup>s</sup>.

LOTHIANE.

P. ROLLOK.

CRAFORD.

A. MAR.

A. L. WCHILTRIE.

HALYRUDHOUS.

Edenburgh, 16 February 1609.

To the Kingis moſt excellent Maieſtie.

LXXXVI.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 16, 1609.

PLEIS 3OUR SACRIDE MAIESTIE,

Efter I had kiſſit the Frenche king his hand, at the defyre of ſum Catholicques heir, I went to ſie the Poipis Nunce, and becaus 3our hienes ambaffadour (quha diſcharges ane faithfull and honorable dewtie to 3our maieſtie) had gottin intelligence by my knowledge, of ſum ſpeicheis that paſt betuix the Nunce and me concerning 3our maieſtie, he thocht it expedient to ſet down the ſame be letter. Bot becaus it war langſum to trobill 3our princie caires with ſo prolix and frivolous purpois, I have writtin the ſame in ane letter to Sir Alexander Hay, 3our

maiesteis secretaire, to the effect that, gif your maiestie pleiffis, ze may at ony iydill hour reid the fame; for befyd that I am your maiesteis subiect, the greit clemencie and favour I have refaut by vtheris at your hienes handis, hes mair nor oblefit me to manteane your maiesteis honour and reputatioun, at all tymes quhen occasioun presentis, quhair of, Godwill- ing, I fall never be forgetfull. So, praying God to grant your maiestie aboiff ws ane lang and prosperous regne, I humelie kifs your hienes hand. I rest for ever

Your Maiesties heumbill and faythfull subiect,

ERLL OF ANGUS.\*

Pareis, this xvi. of Februarij 1609.

LXXXVII.—THE LAIRD OF EDZELL TO KING JAMES VI.

MARCH 30, 1609.

MAIST SACRED SOVERANE,

It may pleise your maiestie, being advertesit that the Erle of Crawford† hes sent copyis to your hienes of certane lettres wrettin be me to my sone, and recoverit be him within the howse of Auchmwill, quhair my sone was wont to dwell, quhilkis informis, it was my will and command to flaye

\* His Lordship was, in July 1608, ordained to be excommunicated by the General Assembly. He had remained a prisoner in Glasgow for some time previously. Finding he could get no peace in his native country, he obtained leave from the King to retire to France.

† David, eleventh Earl, served heir to his father, 28th June 1608. His improvident conduct and dissolute courses are noticed by Sir Thomas Hamilton (afterwards Earl of Melros and Haddington), in a letter to the King. Melros Papers, p. 97.

the wmqhile Lord of Spynie,\* and fa platter and contriver of that onhappye and wyilld flachter, thinking thairbye to awert your maiesteis woontit fawor from me, and to difgrace me at the handis of all honeft men, I hawe chofine and prefumit to tak the hardiment, humblye to pray your hienefs nocht to giwe credit to any cotype of anye lettre coming from the handis of my enemyis, wnto the tyme the principall be tryit to be wrettin, fubfcriwit, or directit be my felf; for I proteft in prefence [of] God, I newer had anye fick innaturall and ongodlye interpryfe in my heart, mekle lefs directit the doing thairof. And to mak this mair manifest to all the world, I hawe intentit improbatioune, that all liwing may know howe iuftlye I am vfit be the Erle of Crawford, and howe he quha was the beginner of all thir trowblis, be the murder of my wmqhill brother, Sir Walter, onder traift, wald nowe eik craft to his crueltes, and in place of repentance, be fals calumnyes wald alfo bereawe me of my fame and lyiff; albeit, I hawe ewer beine, and yit am, maift willing to abyd all ordinar tryell of lawe. Farther, I moft alfo regrait that the faid Erle being laitlye at cowrt, hes privelye obtinit ane commiffione wnto ane numer of his rioteris and dependeris for ferching of my fone, and onder colour thairof, hes intentit nocht onlye to fureprife my houfe of Edzell, quhair my haill ewidentis, and of vther freindis, yit remanis, bot alfo to berawe me of my lyiff within my awin lwdging in Edinburgh, and to the effect foirfaid, wearis daylie piftolettis and hagbwttis, prohibitit be your maiesteis actis, alledging ewer they ar seeking rebellis. For remaid quhair of, and my awin securitie, in refpect of the reafonis foirfaidis, fpecialye becaufe your maiesteis honorabill Priwe Counfell hes alreadye grantit ane verie ample commiffion, excepting onlye my howfe of Edzell, within the quhilk

\* The first Lord Spynie was, in July 1607, slain by Sir David Lindsay on the streets of Edinburgh, in attempting to interfere between the Earl of Crawford and Sir David, the latter of whom was desirous of avenging the murder of his kinsman, Sir Walter Lindsay, who had been assassinated by the Earl. Lord Spynie's death was generally supposed accidental, and is so stated by the writers of the time; but if Lord Crawford's accusation is to be believed, it was the result of design. Considering the character of Crawford, however, it is much more likely that the alleged letters were fabrications of his own, the forgery and falsification of writings being then by no means uncommon. Indeed, it is with reluctance we are compelled to admit, that the Scottish noblemen of that period, with some few exceptions, were utterly devoid of moral principle, and provided they attained their object, cared little as to the means employed.

I hawe fwnd cautione nocht to recept my fone, nor anye of theife rebellis, onder the paine of ten thowfant merkis toties quoties, I will maist humilye praye your maiestie to direct ane warrant to your hienefs Priwye Counfell of this cowntrie, to suspend the last priwatlye obtinit commiffione, as your maiestie wilhawe me free of that schaddowe, be the quhilk, my ondeferuit enemye crawis my lyiff and land; for vtherwayis the counfell, for the reverence they carye to that commiffione feynged by your hienefs, will nocht mell thairwith. Hoping for your maiesties woontit protectione, nowe fa mekle the rather that I am so onkyndlie, onnaturalye, and without deserwing, trwblit be that howse, of the quhilk ewer of ald, nocht onknawin to your maiestie, in thair trowblis I hawe fa weill meritit, vtherwayis, yf I fand nocht securitie hier, I wilbe forcit, altho be sea, in respect of my aidge and inhabilitie, vpon my knees to beg the faming at your heichnefs self. Thws maist humblye kissing your hienefs handis, and praying the Eternall lang to preferwe your maiestie and royall progenie, I rest ewer

Your sacred Maiesteis maist humble and obedient  
subiect and servitour,

EDZELL.

Edinburgh, 1609, penult Martij.

To the King his Maiestie.

LXXXVIII.—THE REVEREND PATRICK SYMSONE TO THE COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

APRIL 3, 1609.

RYCHT REVEREND BRETHRING IN CHRIST JESUS,

I dowbt nocht bot ze will haiwe my absence from this present meitting excusit, in regaird of my infirmetie, zitt I thocht meitt in this few lynis by wrett, to acquent zour w[or]schippis with the behaviour of my Lord Marques of Huntlie fence the counfall day, hauldin at Sterling the xxij. of Marche last bypast, viz.; my Lord Marques fend for me, and confarrit in modest and quyat maner with me anent the heidis of

religioun, contravertit betuix ws and the Romane kirk. Quhat I haiwe obtenit be conference, it is to schort a tyme to mak ane perfyte rekening to 3our worfchippis. Alwayis, the first fruittis ze fall pleise to reffaiwe, subfcryvit be his lordschippis handwrett, anent the heid of justification, and tak fuitche wyfe confideratioun thairanent, as 3our worfchippis fall think expedient, and instruct me by 3our returnit anfuwer with 3our best advyse. Forder, his lordschip hes beine content to heare the word preatchit be me in the castell of Sterling, his lady, childring, and ferwandis, also being present, except ane lady quhome infirmetie with wery neir approching hir birth did excuise. Also, his lordschip is content (always licience being purcheffit from his maiesteis honorable counsale by 3our interceffioun) to cum downe to the towne of Sterling, and to heare the word preatchit thair, quhilk appeirandlie salbe greater proffeit to his lordschip, les panis till ws, and greitter contentment to the pepill. His lordschip also is in guid esperance, and hoip to haiwe the greittar mitigation of the feveretie and rigour to be vfit aganis his lordschip, the neirar that he approitchis to imbraice that weretie of Chrif, quhilk is profeffit in this land, and preatchit and allowit be the lawis of oure cuntrey; and in this poynte, I will intreate 3our worfchippis that thair may be fum lytill prorogatioun of tyme, until 3our worfchippis sie quhat farder fruittis may be reapit of this begun conference, and heiring of the word foirfaid. Nocht willing to truble 3our worfchippis with forder, committis 3ow and 3owre trawellis to the bliffing of the Almichtie. From Sterling, the thrid day of Apryle 1609.

3our brother to command in Chrif,

P. SYMSONE.

The articles subfcryved by my Lord Marques war penned be me, and subfcruied be his lordschip efter deliberatione.

To the rycht reverend in Chrif Jefus,  
the Commiffionaris of the Generall  
Affemblie convenit at Edinburghe,  
&c. &c.

## LXXXIX.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

MAY 16, 1609.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

The continuall and importune complayntis, fra tyme to tyme exhibited vnto ws by your maiesteis poore distreffit subiect, Thomas Hendirfoun, and the confideratioun of the grite iniquitie committit vpoun him, vnder the name and authoritie of the King of Spayne (with whome your sacred maiestie at that tyme, and as yitt, holdeth firme amitie and freindschip), doeth not a litle greve ws; for he being in his lauchfull trade of mercheandice, within the dominionis of the said king, in the \* yeare of God, whair he expected not onlie a peceable commerce, trafficque, and intercoure of his goodis, bot fuche other officious dewtyes of kyndnes and freindschip as ar vsuall to lauchfull trafficquaris: nocht-withstanding, his schip and goodis wer seafit vpoun be force, and him selff committed to the gallayes, quhill he wes constrained to serue, and after foure yearis seruice vnder the said king, his schip and most pairt of his equippage wer caffin away and perished, to his vther miserie and vndoing: wherin, althocht some determinatioun hes bene tane be the said kingis officiaris, the value of his schip and goodis proportioned and sett down, the tymes of his seruice accompted and rated, and his whole caus promissed to be putt to ane end, and dew redres and satisfactioun accordingly to be maid, yitt litle or no redres is maid at all, bot fuche schifiting delay is vsed in this busynes, by those who hes the charge thair of, as is not agreable with conscience, equitie, nor iustice, nor with the honnour, credite, and reputatioun of thair placeis, whairthrow your maiesteis poore subiect, after lang attendance, without hoip or appeirance of redres, is returnit, having spent and consumed vpoun the persute of this busynes, alsmuche, and moir nor the valu of his schip and goodis extendit to, and

is now reduceit to extreame miserye, having the charge and burdyne of a wyffe and a nvmerous familie, and houshold of young childrene, whose caise is to be pityed, that being sometymes in goode rank, and amangs the cheif and best of this towne, and one of the first marcheant venturaris in this your maiesteis kingdome, is now deiectit and vndone, not having sufficient maintenance for his poore housholde and familie. Vpoun consideratioun whairof, we haif tane the bouldnes, in all reuerence to commend him vnto your sacred maiestie, and humelie to intreate your heynes to caus propone this mater to the Spanishe ambaffadour thair resident, laying befor him the grite iniquitie committed vpoun your maiesteis said subiect within the tyme of peace, the disdanefull schifting of him fra hand to hand with continuall delayis, importing in effect, ane plane refusall and denyall of justice, and that thairfoir the said ambaffadour may be moved to tak some course, how your maiesteis distressit subiect may be redressit, alswееle of his lossis, as of the chargeis and expenssis sustenit be him, in persute thairof. Bot heirin submitting oure simple and waik opinioun, and what forder your maiestie thinkis meete to be done in this mater, vnto your heynes most rair and excellent iudgement, and humelie craving your maiesteis pardoun for our presumptioun, we end with oure humble and hairy prayeris to God, to preferue your heynes and your royall progenye in helth and felicitie. Frome your maiesteis burgh of Edinburgh, the xvi. day of May 1609.

Your Maiesteis most humble and obedyent  
subiectis and seruitouris,

AL. CANCELL<sup>r</sup>.  
ROSS.  
DOUMBAR.  
JO. PRESTOUN.

HALYRUDHOUS.  
J. TORPHECHIN.  
WINTOUN.  
PERTHE.

To the King his most sacred and excellent  
Maiestie, &c. &c.



## XC.—WILLIAM FULLARTOUN OF THAT ILK TO KING JAMES VI.

MOST GRACIOUS AND SACRED SOUERAYNE,

The confortable remembrance and experience of your maiestieis most gracious fauour at all tymes towardis me, and the confideratioun of your sacred maiestieis naturall inclinatioun and religious dispositioun to abhor and deteist iniquitie and wrong, in all degreis and rankes of persons, hes maid me your hwmble and distrest subiect, bauld in this my calamitie, to have my recourfe vnto your sacred maiestie, and in all submissioun and humilitie to crave your maiestieis protectioun aganis the malice and iniurie of my Lord Erle of Craufurde, who, being vnmyndfull of the mony guid offices done be me to his vmquhile father, in whose service I spent about fourtie zeiris of my aige, befyd mony guid offices and service done be me to him selff, baith befor his fatheris deceife and senfyne,\* lykas I instantlie stand ingadged for grypt fowmes of money as cautioner for him, and fowmes of money of my awin particularlie lent to him, zitt he hes, without ony cause or occasioun, confaved so heigh a displeasour aganis me, as no thing can content him bot my lyfe, whiche he hes socht at the vttermoost of his possibilitie; lyke as now laitlie in this last moneth of October, I being ryding out of your maiestieis toun of Dundie, in peceable and quyet maner, luiking for no harme, he, accompanied with the number of twenty horse with hagbuittis, pistollettis, and swordis, sett on me, chaiffit and persewit me to the said toun, and throch the toun to the mercat crofs, schott and dischairgit pistollettis at me, and missing me, hes schott ane gentill man callit Gedeon Guthrie, in the body, and the bullet stikking in his bodie, and can not be gottin out as zit, to the grypt parrell of his lyfe, swa that thair is no residence for me

\* David, tenth Earl of Crawford, died 22d November 1607, and was succeeded by his son, David, the eleventh Earl, one of the most unprincipled noblemen of his time (see pages 161, 162), who dying in 1621, the earldom devolved on Henry, the next heir-male.

at my awin home, nor in na pairt of the cuntrie, bot with the extreame hazerd and perrell of my lyfe. In confideratioun whair of, I moft humble befeik your facred maieftie to recommend my diftreft eftait and conditioun to the lordis of your maiefteis Previe Counsale, and ſpecialie to my Lord Chancellor, willing thame to tak ſuche ordour thairin as in furetie I may inioy the benefeit of our maiefteis peax, and be ſecured from the malice and iniurie of the ſaid Erle of Craufurde, and incaife I can not find ſufficient furetie heir, I will be compellit now, in my auld aige, to repair toward your facred maieftie for my releif. And ſua, humelie craving pardoun of your facred maieftie for this my prefumptioun, and with my humble prayeris vnto God, recommending your facred maieftie, with all your royall progenie, vnto his devyne and fatherlie protectioun, I reft for euer

Youre Maiefteis moft humble and obedient  
ſubiect and ſervitour,

WM. FULLARTOUN  
Of that Ilk.

[No date.]

To the King his moft ſacred and  
excellent Maieftie.

XCI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 5, 1609.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

I have noe ſorder for the preſent to aduerteis your highnes concerning the eftaitt of this your majeſties kingdome, bot that this laſt

counfall daye, the 6 of this monethe, the Erle of Ergylle cauffed present the heades of twa notable malefactours in the Hielands, whoe had done manye ewill turnes and wrangis thir yeares bygayne. I fpair to truble yior highnes with thair onpleasand, onworthie, and ongodlie naymes, bot I have written the fame to Sir Alexander Haye. I think my felfe alfo bound in dewtie to testifie to your majestie the great contentment and satisfactioun your highnes twa chaplaynes, Doctör Goodwin and Doctör Milwaird, hes gevin to all this cuntrie in thair doctörine, boithe in learning, eloquence, and godlines. Wee may weill all commend and admire thame, bot wee have ower few to follow or imitate thame. Alwayes we hawe all obligatioun of thankes vnto yior sacred majestie, for directing at tymes sic of yior ferwands heir to latt yior highnes subiects in this kingdome (who leiwes and professis that fame estaitt and lyiff) haiff some taifte and effaye what course thaj sould follow, what ground thaj sould kepe, and how thaj sould discharge thair dewtie best in thair vocation; for I feir indeid thair be toe manye off ours heir that braggs toe mutche of thair vocation, and knowes toe lytle what belonges thairtoe. It may be feyne your maift gracious majestie omittis naa convenient moyen to draw and allure thame to the richt waye.

I have red owir, and pervfed yior sacred majesties booke laitlie come to licht,\* and worthie of ewirlasting licht, all wifdome, all doctörine, all courtesfie, all godlines, policie, and ciuilitie, schynes in the fame.

I remember it is abowe 25 yeares since I concludit ane epigrame vnto yior sacred majestie, with this distitche, when yior highnes was than begynning with your poesies,

Macte animo, Rex, ista tuum genus, ista decebat  
Laus, famam gestis quærere, et ingenijs.

I entered than, being young my felfe, in that opinioun off yior maiesties valour be theese premices of your tender spreit, whereoff I hawe parfawed fenfyne sic strenthe and vigour aryse, boithe in actioun and speculation,

\* Could this book be "Triplici nodo, triplex cuneus: Or an Apologie for the Oath of Allegiance," &c. of which the first edition appeared in 1607, and the second in 1609?

as I am to my great contentment confermed in my awin poetick diuination, and hopes in my auld dayes to onderstand the haill warld shall admire and reverence the fame. Sua, praying the Eternall God lang to preferwe yior maiestie in all healthe and prosperitie, I end this present with the maist humbill kifs of yior sacred hand, continowing still to my lyfes end

Your maist sacred Maiesties maist humbill  
and obedient subiect and seruitour,

DUNFERMELINE.

Edinburcht, 8th Julij 1609.

XCII.—JANE STEWART TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 3, 1609.

SIR,

I humbly crawes your maiestie gracious fauour and pardoun, that I haif tane the bauldnes to lament my hard estait, having my loving husband tane frome me, and left with tuelf bairnes, lyttill rent to leiwe vpon, and burdenit with gret debt, that it may pleis your maiestie to remember of my umquhile husbandis faithfull seruice wnto your maiestie, and of your gracious countenance toward me at all tymes. It pleais your maiestie to be euer fauorabill wnto my husband, and to releue him of the debt contractit for my brother, quhilk releyuit no debt of his awin, bot left him in debt boith in Ingland and Scotland. Sir, I haif young weimen redy to marie, and your maiesties fervand my douchter, Margratt, is marreit not without ane burden to me and my sone. Humbly recommending my estait wnto your maiesties gracious fauour and helpe, and your guid anfueir, quhairin my onely confort restis vnder God : maist

humblie kyffing 3our maiefteis hand, I tak my leiff, praying the Eternall  
to grant 3our maieftie monye happie and long dayis,

Be 3our Maiefteis maift humble and obedient  
fervand,

JAIN STEWART.

Pitcarlye, the 3d of Auguft 1609.

To the Kingis moft excellent Maieftie  
of Gret Brytane.

XCHII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 12, 1609.

MAIST SACRED SOUERANE,

It pleafed yieur majestie, be yieur prencelie and fauorable letter, to recommend vnto me to concurre with the Erle of Doumbar in fetting furthe off yieur highnes ferwice in this kingdome in all sic directiouns as your maieftie had gevin to the faid Erle, quhilk gevis me the occasioun to tak the bauldnes to writte thir few lynes vnto yieur maift gracious maieftie at this tyme. Your highnes directiounes first to the conventioun haldin in Januar last, nixt to our last sessioun of parliament, and dyvers tymes to your secreit counfall, war fwa wyfe, fwa worthie, and fwa euidentlie sett down for the weill and wealthe of this estaitt, as nather myne nor naa particular mannis concurse could be requisite to advance or procure the same to be imbraiced. Naa good subiect, nor weill affected to his cuntrie, could vtherwyfe doe, nor acknowledge himfelfe in hiecheft degrie oblisched vnto yieur maieftie for your prencelie cair, in satling fwa good ordours and policie amongs ws. To this joyned the faid Earle of Doumbar, his dexteritie in vsing the faidis directiounes, in gewing all honest men dew satisfactioun in all sic doubtis as micht aryse concerning the faidis directiounes, and alwayes making all men cleirlie resolwed of yieur sacred maiefteis constant, continowall, intere, and zealous affectioun

to the weele of this kingdome, and to ewirie man in particular, according to his rank, merites, and plaite, maide me werie lytle adoe, and my burding werie licht in your maiesteis ferwice at this tyme, and far inferior to sic notice and acknowledgement as hes pleased your maiestie geive me be your letter for my goodwill, in studeing to bring your prencelie and royall deffeyngs to dew successe and accomplischement.

Besides all other notable good ferwice, whilk this noble man, the Erle of Doumbar, hes done vnto your maiestie, my dewtie in my plaice vnder your highnes heir bindes me to signifie this vnto yow, that he hes had speciall cair to repress, baithe in the incountrie and on the Bordours, the infolence of all the proud bangifters, oppreffours, and nembroithis,\* but regaird or respect to ony of thame, hes purged the Bordours of all the cheiffest malefactouris, rubbars, and brigantis as war wount to regne and triumphe thair, als clein, and be als great wifdome and policie as Hercules sometymes is written to have purged Augeas, the king of Elide his escuries, and be the cutting aff be the sword of justice, and be your maiesteis authoritie and lawis, the Laird of Tynwell, Maxwell, findrie Douglassis, Jhonefounes, Jardanis, Armestrangis, Betifounes, and sic others magni nominis luces in that brokin pairtis, hes randered all theese wayes and passages betuix your maiesties kingdomes of Scotland and Ingland als free and peciable, as is recorded Phoebus in auld tymes maide frie and oppen the wayes to his awin oracle in Delphos, and to his pythicque playes and ceremonyes be the destruccion of Phorbas and his Phlegiens, all theiwis, voleurs, bandstiers, and throat cutters. These pairtis ar now, I may assure yowr majestie, als lawfull, als peciable, and als quyett, as anye pairt in any ciuill kingdome of Chriftianitie.

All this is done quyettlie, suddanlie, and in schort spaice, but anye harme, truble, hazaird, or greiff to onye good subiect. All is done in your sacred maiesteis nayme and authoritie: all be your prencelie commandement and instruccion. Baithe he and the haill kingdome yeildis vnto yowr maiestie continowallie, infinit thankis and praise thairfoir. As he is, and continowallie professis to be, your majesties ferwand, and your

\* Nimrods ? probably meant to designate moss-troopers.

creature, his aëtiounes ar all yiouris : the effects, the praise, the consequence thair of, ar to redound to your sacred maiestie, as all the waters, baith the great and small, returnis to the great ocean sea.

In the incountrie, where occasioun hes bene presented of riotts or offences in ony personnes esteimed of the misfrewlie or bangifter kynd of peple, as we call thame ; as Threasaure, he has swa pwneist and wfed the maist pairt of thame, as I hope shall breid ws all heir great ease for a lang whyle ; for I think sic Centaures, sic Gerionis, sic Bufyris of Egypte, and sic Arithes, shall eschiew to come in sic a Hercules waye or daunger, wha, be yior majesteis stenthe and wise directioun, can decyfre and goe beyound all thair craft and subtiliteis, and can contemne and owirthrow all thair wayne boast and pride.

All this I doubt not bot your maist gracious maiestie hes bene informed of mair particulerlie at feuerall tymes be yior ordinair secretarie, Sir Alexander Haye, whometo all is ewir vrittin particularlie, in all our proceedings in counfall, and in all others affairis of importance in this kingdom.

This I hawe thocht necessair to writte, onlie to testifie vnto your maiestie what praise and honour it is to yow, and what evident demonstratioun of your royall wisdome the choyse and imployment of sic ane officear and instrument, in sic royall charges ; wha hes the witt to consawe, the cair, ingyne, and moderatioun to conwoye, joyned with the curage, moyen, and valour to execute and performe the same. This, in all humilitie taking my leive, with a kifs of your royall and sacred hand, and praying the Eternall for your majesteis continowance and daylie increfs in all prosperitie, rests for ewir

Your sacred Maiesties maist humbill and  
affectionat subiect and seruitour,

DUNFERMELYNE.\*

Edenburgh, 12th Augustj 1609.

\* This letter is inimitable, and must have suited the fancy of the King exactly. The gross flattery and superabundance of classical allusion would be equally palatable. No wonder that Lord Dunfermline was a favourite.

## XCIV.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

OCTOBER 30, [1609?]

PLEIS YOUR SACRED MAIESTY,

At my laft pairting from Scotland, the tyme conteinit in the charge was onlie xx dayes, viz. from the 18 of Oôtober to the 10 of No-uember exclufiue, to paffe out of your maiefties dominions in Scotland, fo that I could not haue fufficient tyme to eftablifh fick folide ordour with my affaires as was requifite for fo lang abfence. Nou, feing it hes pleafet your hienes to grant me the benefite of my leauing during the reft of my dayes, I will moft humbly entreate your maiefty vpon my kneis, be this prefent, that I may haue licence to returne to Scotland for fome fyue or fax monethes only, vpon fick conditions as your maiefty pleafes till enioyne, that I may put ordour to the diforderet eftate of my leauing, whilk can not be done without my awen prefence to my great loffe, and is now all out of forme and ordour, and that I may giue my laft gudnicht to my contrey, familie, and friendes, for I am become now auld and feakly, and within fchort tyme will be vnable to trauell. Gif it fall please your maieftie to grant me this grace, of your princely clemency, the caution for my returne fall ftand, as they ar alreddy obliged, and I will think my felfe bound in confcience to pray daylie for your maiefties prosperous regne and royall pofterity. Thus, kiffing, with all humility, your princely hand, I reft now and ever

Your Maiefties moft humble and faithfull  
fubieët,

ERLL OF ANGUS.

Paris, the penult of Oôtober [1609?]



XCV.—OATH TENDERED TO THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY AND THE  
EARL OF ERROL.

NOVEMBER 13 AND 17, 1609.

THE Oathe vnderwritten being offered to the Marques of Huntley and Erle of Erroll, the one vpoun the xiiij<sup>th</sup> of November, the other vpoun the xvij<sup>th</sup> of the same moneth in this instant yeir of God, j<sup>m</sup> vi<sup>e</sup> and nyne yeiris ; and they haueing fullye refolued in there consciencis with every poynte of the same, with all dew solemnitie (the holye Ewangell tuiched) humblye vpoun there kneis, in prefence of many noblemen, bishoppis, and vtheris of goode forte, did tak this oathe efterspecifiet :—

1. As I acknowledge my self to be his maiesties naturallie borne subiect, befyides my innumerable obligationes to his persoun, so do I, in the faithe of a trew Christiane, protest and awowe to be evir trew and afauld to his maiestie and his posteritye, nevir to conceale the hairme of him and his estaite, and nevir to spaire the hazairdeing of lyife and estaite in affisting his maiestie and his posteritye, so far as fall lye in my power, agains whatfoevir enemye, invaider or invasioun, ather domesticall or forrayne, vpoun whatfoevir quarrell or pretext of the invaider, or of the pretext or caus of invasioun, yea, though it wer for caus of religioun.

2. And therefor, I do in speciall confests and protest, that if any warre fuld happin to fall outt betuix his maiestie and his succeffouris and the Pope, or if any publick invasioun or privatt attempt fuld be executed agains his maiestie or his staite, aither by the Pope's directioun, advyise, assistance, or oversight, I am, in that caise, bounde, bothe in conscience and dewtye, to assiste his maiestie to the vttermoste of my power : Lyikeas, heirby I sweare and promise, in the faithe of a trew Catholicke Chrif-

tiane, so to do, notwithstanding whatfoevir allwerementis, threatningis, or prohibitiouns of the Pope to the contrarye.

3. And in caice it fuld happin that the Pope fuld excommunicat his maieftie or his fucceffouris, and louse his fubiectis from there fidelitie; nevertheles I do not hold it anywayis laugfull, ather for me, or any other of his maiefties fubiectis, to give the Pope any obedience therein, or to fwarue in the leaſte jotte of our naturall dewtye and fubiection vnto him.

4. For nather do I holde it laugfull for the Pope, or any perfoun whatfoevir that lives vpoun the earth, to dethrone or depoife kingis, or to lousf there fubiectis from there fidelitie, or anywayes to meddle with temporall authoritye of princes, notwithstanding any refpect of religioun or whatfoevir other fpirituall refpect.

5. For I am perfuadeit in my confcience, that kinges ar the immediats lieutenantis of God vpoun earthe, and that there calling is directlye from God, and therefoir ar fubiect to nane vnder God himſelf, nor bounde to give accompt of any poynte of there governament to any vnder God.

Renunceing and difclaimeing with my hearte all that ambitious vfurpation of popes abowe the temporall authoritye of emperours and kinges; vtterlye condemning alſweill the doctrine as practiſe thereof. And of all theſe poyntes I am in my confcience perfuadeit, without any forte of æquivocation, whiche doctrine I abhorre as the doctrine of lies: nather do I think that any pope can hawe power to diſpenſe with any manis confcience, in any of theſe former poyntes.

HUNTLYE.

ERROLL.

\* Balfour obſerves in his *Annals*, pp. 33, 34, that in February 1610, theſe two Lords ſtill remained in confinement; “for the King (as the treuth was) thought that he could not preſerve the publick peace better, then he keeping theſe birdes of prey ſo caidget wpe.”

## XCVI.—GEORGE LORD GORDON TO KING JAMES VI.

MOST DREAD SOUVERAINE,

Since it did please your maiestie, out of your gracious fauor, to call me to the attendance heir on the princes seruice, which I hold on of the greatest pointes of all wordlie happines, in regarde of your maiesties good mynd towards me your maiesties vnworthie subiect and seruant: and finding some thortours in my stay, quhairat your maiestie no doubt will admire and few will creedit, I am in this, my forced necessitie, compelled to haue recours to that fontaine of your maiesties gracious fauor and protectione whiche I haue euer found, and still does expect at your maiesties hand. My father by all licklyhood seemes cairles of me, I dar say no farther, perhapes accompting me vnworthie of his regaird as beeng ane hæretic in his conceit; and zit no strait, nather aduerfitie, fall diuert me from that impreffione of Godes trew feare, the professioun whairof, I hope, according to my promise made to your maiestie, to giue ane constant prooffe to my verie last breath. Prouision I haue none els, and my remaining heir in this fort without money or means to defray creditours, befydes euedent harme to myself, must neids in respect of my birth, be some impeachment to the honour of my natiue countrie. I haue communicat my iust greifs to my Lord Duc of Lennox, my unckle, and to your maiesties most worthie subiect the Erle of Dumbar, I am most desyrous to know your maiesties plesoure, whairunto without regaird of perrell or inconuenient I will euer conforme myself, only wreiting these lynes (crauing pardoun of your maiestie for this my presomption), to testifie your maiestie of my precent caice, quhiche, by the Duc of Lennox and the berar, may be fegnified at more lenth. And wishing at God that I might

haue occasione to testifie my deuitfull affection with the pryce of my lyf, I humbly pray the Almichtie God euer to blis your maiestie with all happines, and I rest

Your Maiesties most humble subiect and  
seruitour,

GEORGE GORDOUNE.

[No date.]

XCVII.—ALEXANDER COLQUHOUN OF LUSS TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 13, 1609.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVERAIGNE,

May it pleas your most sacred maiestie, I haue of tymes complained of the infolence and heavye oppreffioune committed wpon my tennents and lands be the Clangregour, and have beeine forced to be filent this tyme bygaine, hoping that sometyme thair fould beine ane end thair of: Bot now finding myself disappointed, and thame entered to their former courses, have taine occasione to acquent your sacred maiestie thairwith, beseeking your maiestie to haue pitie and compaffioun wpon ws your maiesties obedient subiectes, and remanent poire pepill quha sufferes, and to provyd tymous remeid thairin; and that your maiestie may be the better informed in the particular, I have acquent your maiesties secretaire thairin, to quhois sufficiency referring the rest, and craveing pardoune for importuning your maiestie, I leive in all humanitie in your maiesties most sacred hands.

Your sacred Maiesties most humble and  
obedient subiect,

ALEXANDER COLQUHOUN  
off Lufs.

Rosdo, the 13 of November 1609.

XCVIII.—THE INHABITANTS OF THE LATE BORDOURS OF SCOTLAND  
TO KING JAMES VI.\*

Thay that wrytts of the qualeteis of ane guid kyng compairs him to the son, *qui non est alius pauperi, quam diuiti, sed omnibus communis*. Rycht so, most gracious fouerane, ze ar our son, the beames of quhois fauour and luif heathe equallie ouerschaddouit your hienes haill realmes. Erasmus, *De Institutione Principis*, sayis, *Quid est aliud regnum, nisi magna familia? Quid rex, nisi plurimorum pater?* And, indeid, your maiestie, withe the eyis of your prudence, iustice, and benignetie, as ane cairfull maister of ane famelie, or rather as ane loowyng father, hes lookit narrowlie into the behauour of those that inhabit euery part of your hienes realmes, bot especiallie to the behauour of those that inhabits that part of your maiestis realm of Northbritane, sumtym callit the Bordors, quhom your hienes hes bene thir dyuers zeirs bygane sumtym threatnyng by iustice, sumtym alluryng by lenitie, to that dew obedience quhilk becomes trew and faithfull subiects: And to this effect, it pleased your hienes to gif command to your officers in those parts, to play the part of expert husband men, *qui noxas frugibus plantas herbasque conuellere atque in totum extirpare solent*. Neuirtheles thay ar so far frome doing of thair deutie to God and your hienes, that all reuerence and feare of punisment set asyd, thay ar returnit (*vt canis ad vomitum*) to thair auld accostomet infolences and vicket lyf: quhairthrow wee, that ar of the most peacebill and obedient sort of subiects within those parts, leifs at this hour in als greit feare of our lyfs and goods, as ewer we did at ony tyme heertofoir, quhen grittest difobedience rang amangs ws. Quhairfoir we haue fend up thir our greifs to your most sacred maiestie, at this tyme, in all humilitie, beseikand your hienes to play the part of ane hol-some phyysician to ws, *qui membrum putrefactum incidi atque in totum*

\* There is no date—it has consequently been placed at the end of the year 1609.

eradicari iubet, ne aliam corporis partem labefactare aut corrumpere possit. It heathe pleased your hienes to appoint the Erle of Dumbar to be grit commissiouner for repreffing of the enormeteis of those people, quho, indeid, heathe bene ane faithfull executor of your hienes pleasour and will. Bot, as Cicero sayis, in Oratione pro Cluentio, thay ar lyk to the beasts of the feild, quæ fame dominante ad eum locum vbi aliquando pastæ sunt reuertuntur. For the lytill intermissioun of Justice Courts quhilk heathe bene synce his lordships departur and appearance of lenetie, hes maid tham so insolent, that thair is nothing quhilk thay dar not attempt. The deshonour of God, his word and ministrie baithe practizet; disobediens to your hienes lawis no falt; for the Erle of Dumbar (say thay) and his deput commissiouners will not intermedle with ony maters, bot only withe new thifts. He that can rais fyr secretlie and wnknawin, fall not leif it wndon. Wyld incests, adultereis, conuocatiouns of the lieges, schutting and wearing of hagbuts, pistolets, and lances, dayly bludscheds, oppressioun, and disobediens in ciuill maters, nather ar nor hes bene punischit. Gif ony peacebill man seu ony of the clannes to the law for thair lands or goods, he is incontinent threatnit of his lyf, and gif he obtene decreit befor the ordinar judge, quho dar put the samyn to executioun? for he dar not poynd for feir of gritter inconuenients: And as for hornynge, thair is no moir accompt maid of the going to the horne than to the aillhou; for quhen commissioun is obtenit to the gaird to tak the rebels (quhilk is our last refuge), Sir William Cranston refusis to execute the samyn, becaus it belangis not to his commissioun, and my Lord of Scone comes feildome to counsell with his gaird, for ather thay ar disperst throw the contrie, and said to be imployet in vther commissiouns, or ellis the haille foume contenit in the commissioun will not content my lord for his guidwill, and the gaird for thair expenss, or wtherways thay ar attending vpon his lordship and his priuat effeares; and gif at ony tyme ane commissioun be presentit to ony of the gaird, thay will not execute the samyn quhill his lordship be foirfene and gif tham his warrand, quhilk is moir accountet of and moir difficill to obtene than the counsellis; and be this meanes, gif the rebell be his freind, or ane man quhome he fauours, his lordship is accustomet to mak him aduerteisment

be his letter, that the gaird is to be directit aganes him. The brenches of clannes ar begun agane to renew ligges and bands amangs themselves, and to conuene in vnlauthfull maner in euery on of thair particulers. Gif diligent fearcher war maid throwche euery paroche, thair fuld be ane grit number fund of ydle people without ony calling, industrie, or lauthfull meanes to leif by, except it be vpon the blude of the pooreft and moft obedient fort. Wthers, agane, that feames to be of the better fort, ar fo full of pryd, invy, and malice, that, as Plutarche sayis, quod inter Agathallos et Acanthylides tantum est odium, vt si sanguis eorum immisceatur, continuo separent se rursus et diffilant hinc inde. Thir men, etiamfi aliquando pro rerum vfu coniungantur, durat tamen odium naturale, in ilk fort that gif four or fyue of tham conuene tham felfs in ane aillhous, as thair custome is, thay fall not part without contention and bludfchede. Sir, lat no man diffauze your maiestie, and say that the cuntrie is brocht to quyetnes and good ordour; for, as the Lorde leues, thair was not ilk appearence of wnquyetnes, ilk blud[schedes], nor ilk stealling, synce your hienes happie going in Ingland, as is [at this] present. It is not the execution of a few symple and poore men, ilk as wa[s done] laithlie baithe be the barrones of Nydysdaill and Galloway, quhen gritter . . . war ouersene, that will bring the contre to that conformetie your h[ienes] defyres: Araneorum telas corui perrumpunt muscæ vero implicantur. Thay [war verie] blodie mouthet hands all thair tyme, and leiders of companeis of th . . . broken men, and as zet dreimes of nothyng bot of blude; thift and oppreßion gois frie, sum of tham clemand to remissions, and never a partie satisfiyt. Vthers alledgis thay haue gottin ane ouersyght at the ernest fute of sum men thair freinds, and vthers agane ar seruants and dependers vpon [sum] of the deput commissioners, quhome thay imploy in sum seruice, as the physician vñs fel hienæ et phocæ coagulum aliasque pessimarum ferarum partes . . . of grit diseases. Thir sort of peopill ar not meit to leif in ane ciuil [common]wealthe, fed rostro ferreo, vt herbæ radicitus euelluntur a vinea . . . thair posteretie eradicandi sunt: for, coccitis pullus, as Plinius . . . leuerit cum sit nothus, tamen legitimos deuorat, vnaque matrem . . . skilfull musycian thinks it not sufficient, in cithara in vno ta . . . con-

centum efficere, fed vniuerſi percutiendi ſunt numeroſe et . . . . Euen ſo we ar perſuadet, that it is not 3our hienes pleaſour to pu[t ane or] tua of the clannes of thoſe parts to ane tryall, bot that euery one of tham, the hieft to the laweft, ſould be layed to the tuichtane of juſtice. Agap[itus Dia-]conus, in ane treatiſe de Officio Regis, ſayis, vt ſolis partes, ſunt illuſtrare orbem, ſic principis wirtus eſt egenorum miſereri; and the experience we haue had of 3our hienes luif and pitie toward 3our diſtreſſit ſubiects, hes geuen full affurance to ws, that 3our hienes will cauſ all the enormeteis of thoſe parts be repreſſit; and that frequent courtes be kept amangs ws, ager enim diu non proſciſſus ſylueſcit, ac paſſim innumeras vepres producit. The intermiſſion of juſtice courts, and appearance of lenetie, hes maid tham to put on thair old habits; for thay may be comparet to the adamant ſton, qui ſolo ſanguine maceratus frangitur, and man be vſit as the phyſician dois thois, qui crudo et indigeſto ſunt ſtomacho, quibus amarum prodeſt abſynthium. Quhairfoir, we maiſt humblie entreat 3our moſt ſacred maieſtie, that command be gewen to 3our hienes officers, to aſſiſt 3our poore and diſtreſſit ſubiects in thoſe parts, alſweill in thair ciuill as criminall aetiones; and that thay play not the part of euill craftiſmen, qui ſemper relinquunt locum caſtigationi, vt legulet occaſionem liti. And ſo, in all humeletie, we tak our leiſ, beſeikand the Allmyghtie God to grant 3our maieſtie ane long, happie, and prosperous reingne ouer ws,

3our Maieſteis moſt humble and obedient ſubiects,

THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAIT  
BORDERS OF SCOTLAND.\*

To the Kyngs moſt ſacred Maieſtie.

\* From the ſtyle of this interesting document, and the numerous Latin quotations, one might conjecture that it came from the pen of Lord Dunfermline.



## XCIX.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 15, 1610.

PLEIS 3OUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Sins my 3oungeft 3eiris, neuer hauing beine in us to difobey 3our facred maieftis uill and directioun, in no temporall thing quhatfumeuir, I haue nou transgrefsit thos limits for greater testimonie of my humble affectioun and obediens. Yea, I uill go uerray neir the hazart of my faull, befor I gif 3our facred maieftie any iust occaßioun athaer of grudge or mistrust againis me: and gif I did utheruayis, I uar the most ingrait in the earth, confidering be quhou monie obligatiouns I am detbound to 3our facred maieftis fauour touards me heirtofor, quhilk lyis neuer in my fimple pouar till acquit, albeit I fuld uair the laft drop of my blood in 3our facred maieftis feruis in recompans. And feing my conformitie nou procedis moft of my affectioun, I hoip for the forder fauour at 3our facred maieftis hands, remitting me aluayis to 3our facred maieftis wontit fauour and clemencie touards me, quhilk I fall euer pres to conferue by all humble deuetie of feruis, quhilk may ly in ane fimple fubieçts pouar to performe, as I haue informit this berar, Sir Thomas Ker, my feruitour, to delait unto 3our facred maieftie at greater lenth, gif it uill pleis 3our facred maieftie till do him that honour as to heir him. Sua, eftir the kifßing moft humble of 3our facred maieftis hand, I uill  
reft

3our moft facred maieftis euer humble  
fubieçt and moft affectionat feruitour  
to the deith,

HUNTLYE.

At Stirling Caftell, this 15 of Februar 1610.

To the Kings moft facred Maieftie.

## C.—THE COUNTESS OF CRAWFURD TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 17, 1610.

MOST GRACIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

It will pleis your hienes, the grypt confort quhilks wthers diftreffit subiects haue fundin; hes now as on of thois embaldonit me to putt furth thois lynis of regraitts to your hienes wew, complening of the vniust difdanis and vnkyndlie actionis of my housband towards me, quha, since the tym of my vnquhill fathers deceis, following his will and leud affectionis, hes now repudeatt me, without all feir of God, your hienes and lauis; detenit me as ane captiue, in dander of my lyf, quhill at last is delyuerit be moyane of my freinds, and so now leuis without ayd of him, spoillid and defradit of both fuid and rayments: in the quhilk creuelitie he zit contenuis, without your maiestie prouyd remeid, the quhilk I in all humilitie befeiks your hienes giue eir wnto in tym, that he in his vikitnes being restranit, may in end tend to my confort, quhairon I rest, taking my liue in all humilitie, praying to blis your hienes with ane long lyf and ane prosperus regne,

Your Hienes most humbill seruitrice  
now and euer at all pouer,

JAENE COUNTES OF CRAWFURD.\*

Edinburcht, the xvii Februar 1610.

\* According to Stewart's (Lord Ochiltree) MS. Genealogical Collections, this lady was "Jean Kerr, daughter to Mark Lord Newbattle, and sister to Robert Earl of Lothian, and widow of John Lord Boyd." Of this marriage, Lord Ochiltree states there was one daughter, although, in Wood's Edition of Douglas, vol. i. p. 380, it is said that the Earl died without issue. The Countess, continues his Lordship, "he divorced, and she married Mr Thomas Hamilton, son to the Lord Annandale[?]" This Earl David died in the Castle of Edinburgh in prison, and was interred in the Abbey Church of Holyrood."—"He was confined for killing Walter Lindsay of Belgaves." Nisbet's Genealogical Collections, MS. Fac. Lib. page 51.

CL.—THE REVEREND JOHN HALL AND REVEREND PETER HEWAT  
TO KING JAMES VI.  
FEBRUARY 17, 1610.

PLEASE YOUR MAJESTIE,

We, having tane notice by your majesties secretery, of some hard information given foorth against us, and com'd to your maiesties eares, as thought our speaches in pulpit had tended in any fort to the impugning of any of your maiesties lawfull directions, whilk course, as we haue ever bene loath and unwilling to follow, so, least we shuld ly under the burthing of this so untrue an report, we ar bold to present to your highnes, by this our humble letter, the trueth of this fame, having at greater lenght imparted to my lord secretarie all the circumstances of that mater. When signification was given of your majesties will and pleasure, anent a new cessation and time of vacancie in the winter session, it was so mistaken universally, that the commoun fort thinking it to proclame to them libertie and lowfenes, to the whilk they ar so prone, and the Papists and enemies of Gods trueth taking heiroy occasion of insolent speaches, as thought encouraged to looke for the returne of their former superstitious doing, we was forced in our sermons as to sett ourselves against the vanitie of the people, and labour to tak from the enemies this mater of their joy: so to cleir your maiesties honest and godly intention, being certified by my Lord Chancellor directing to us the baillies of this toun to that effect, that there was none other thing meant be your highnes, but to give relaxation to the lords of your maiesties session, at that season of the year; so that in meddling with this earand, we trust we have so caried ourselves with respect to your maiesties honor, that we haue ministrat no just occasion of offence. And gif the contrair shalbe alledged or qualified be any in quhatsoever particular speache, we dout not bot our answer shall render contentment: and we know that your maiestie has never bene in

ufe to condemne unheard. Whereas your maiestie hes likewise bene advertised of sum unreverent and impertinent speeches used in publick prayer concerning your maiestie by certane of the brethren of this presbyterie, we can affuir your maiestie that, to our knowledge and hearing, there is no such difordour, whereof, gif any shalbe found culpable, your maiestie may perswade yourself he shall not escape convenient censure, as we willbe answerable to your hienes, under whose wings we enjoy this liberty. The prooffe your maiestie hes had of our former proceeding, and knowledge your maiestie may tak of our hail carriage in our vocation by persons indifferent, and such as dois not hate us and our ministry both, we doubt not will move your maiestie to foster none evill conceit of us, but, in all accusations fallbe caried, leaue place to us to answer for ourselves. Thus, referring to my lord secretary a moir speciall report, with whome we haue bene plane in every thing, we humblie tak our leave, and commends your maiesties sacred person and estait to the blessing and protection of the Almighty.

Your Maiesties loving and obedient subjects,

Edinburgh, 17 Februar 1610.

JO. HALL.

MR P. HEWATT.

To the King his maist excellent Majestie.

CIL—WARRANT APPOINTING PETER ROLLOK OF PILTOUN ONE OF THE  
EXTRAORDINARY LORDS OF SESSION.

MAY 16, 1610.

At Edinburgh, the sextene day of Maij, the yeir of God 1<sup>m</sup>  
vj<sup>e</sup> and ten yeiris, in presens of the lordis of counsaile, compeirit person-  
allie Mr Petir Rollok of Piltoun, and presentit to the lordis this warrand  
directit from his maiestie to the chancellour, president and remanent

fenatouris of the College of Justice ; off the quhilk the tenour followis.\* Richt trustie and weilbelouit coufing and counfalouris, we greit yow weill. Quhairas vfuallie in all tymes past since the institutioun of the College of Justice, the extraordinaris nevir exceidit the number of foure, quhill of lait yeiris, that vpoun ane speciale vrgent occasioun the fyft was addit, and now, efter the death of Mark Erle of Lowthiane, quha was ane extraordinare boith by place and voit of the sprituale fyde, we haveing nominat the rycht reuerend father in God the Archbischop of Glasgow for possessioun thair of, and heirwith haifing sent down oure warrand vnto yow for reducing thame to the number of four, and certifeing oure pleafour concerning the other thrie, we do now vnderstand that by this ordour Mr Peter Rollok of Piltoun, ane of thame, quho of ane lang tyme had bene ane extraordinare, was now dispossessit, and knowing him to haif bene ane evir bent to oure seruice, and vtherwayes fit and apt for administration of justice, and being by ane lettre from all of yow speciallie recommendit vnto ws, and by yow intrettie maid to ws on his behalf, we haifing bene evir vnwilling that an old servant, aganes quhome no exceptioun of ony offence could be takin, fould in his eagit yeiris carie ony note of the losse of oure fauour, as mycht both breid greif to himself and heastin his gray hairis to the graif, and imprint in the opinioun of vtheris sum apprehensioun of his disgrace : Thaife ar thairfoir to will and requyre yow to receave and admit him agane to be ane of your extraordinaris, to haif place and voit in lyk maner as ony of the vther four hes. And, howevir, vpoun the respectis foirfaidis we ar forcit to vrge the number of fyve extraordinaris to sit with yow, yit it is not oure mynd that this fall be ony preparative heirefter for the continowing of the lyk number. But oure plesour is, that yow, by ane speciale act and statute, to be re-

\* See Melros Papers, vol. i. pp. 76, 279. Peter Rollok, who originally was brought up to the profession of the law, and who passed advocate previous to the year 1575, subsequently directed his views towards the church, and succeeded James Paton, Bishop of Dunkeld, in December 1585. He was admitted, on the 19th May 1596, an extraordinary Lord of Session, on the resignation of the Earl of Montrose. Of this office he was afterwards deprived, but restored by this warrant from the King. He retained his seat for about ten years, when he resigned it, and was succeeded, 1st February 1620, by Lord Erskine.

cordit in your buikis, declair that this admiffioun of ane fyft extraordinare is onlie hac vice tantum ; and that fua fone as ony of thefe places fall vaik in ony fort, that than none fall be put in the rounge of that voide place, and in no tyme thairefter the number to be encreafed : for doing quhairof thefe prefentis fall be vnto yow warrant : and in fo far as it is requyrit that euerie extraordinare be one of oure counfale, and the faid Mr Petir being none of that number, we haif, tharfor, out of our prerogative royall, difpenfit thairwith, inhabling him in all refpectis to injoy his place, as gif he war ane of our counfale ; and fo we bid yow fairweill. From our court of Qubhythall, the fyft of Apryle 1610 ; as the faid lettre, fignet with his maiefteis hand and fuperfcriptioun, proportis. Quhilk being confideret be the faidis lordis, they fand his maiefteis defyr thairin contenit verie reafonable, and according thairto hes admittit and reffaut the faid Mr Peter Rollok in ane of the extraordinare Lordis of Seffioun, and gevis and grantis to him all the priuilegis, immunitis, and digniteis, pertaining to the faid extraordinare place, and quhilk hes bene bruikit be ony vther extraordinare Lord of Seffioun at ony tyme of befoir : and the faid Mr Peter Rollok being perfonallie prefent, maid faith that he fould leillalie and trewlie exerce the faid office, and minifter iuftice thairin to all oure fouerane lordis liegis, and to obferue the actis and flatutis of the feffioun, and thairvpoun askit instrumentis. Extractum de libro actorum per me dominum Georgium Hay de Nethirliff, militem, clericum rotulorum regiftri ac confilii fancti domini noftri regis, fub meis figno et fubfcriptione manualibus,

GEORGIUS HAY, *Clericus Regiftri.*

## CIII.—THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY TO KING JAMES VI.

JUNE 18, [1610?]

PLEIS 3OUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE,

Hauing euer, in all my greateſt trubils, miſeris, and aduerſitis paſt, fund 3our ſacred maieſtie my onlie gracious proteſteur, faugard, and refuge, now I am forcit moſt humblie to regrait my preſent hard eſtait, fins nou, far aganis my expectatioun, all 3our ſacred maieſtis lettres uretin fauorable for my delyuerans, I find thaeme thrawin to contrar effect, be the malice of thaes quha ondeſeruidlie haitis me, and thair greter yre apperis that onie ſpounk of 3our ſacred maieſteis gracious fauour ſuld zit ſeime to remaine towards me : for I hauing, according to 3our ſacred maieſtis directioun, in preſens of the Chancellor and the Erlle of Dumbar, and ſum of the biſchops and miniſtrie, not onlie ratiſiit my ſubſcriptioun of the heidis it pleſit 3our ſacred maieſtie to direct unto me, bot alſweill in euerie point, particularlie in thair preſens, approuit the ſame, zit nothing uald ſatiſſie, except I uald boith ſuer and communicat : ſua nou, Sir, I haue my onlie refuge, ſen reaſon will not be hard be thaem, unto 3our ſacred maieſtis fauorable clemencie, quhilk I haue euer fund more towards me than ane thouſand of my lyuis can repay. Pleis 3our ſacred maieſtie to call to memorie, that this zeir paſt, I was informit that my going to ſermons wald giſe 3our ſacred maieſtie ſatiſſaſtioun, quhilk I obeyit : Secondlie, the biſhop of Orkney preſentit unto me the oth of alledgens from 3our ſacred maieſtie, quhilk I willinglie performit with all affection, as himſelf teſtifiit thereſtir. Zit this not ſuffiſing, I haue at laſt, for 3our ſacred maieſtis forther ſatiſſaſtioun, ſubſcryuit the heids of religioun that it pleſit 3our ſacred maieſtie to direct unto me. Giff all this cannot ſuffis to procur me libertie to ſum of my houſis, I knau not quhat reſtis till me to do, bot onlie, as I haue euer done heirtofor, to ſubmitt my ſelf in all humilitie to 3our ſacred maieſtis good pleaſour and will : and I will humblie beſeik 3our ſacred maieſtie to grant one of thir three

petitiouns : Athaer libertie, as was condiscended be your sacred maieftis former lettre, to go till fume of my housis, or than that fauour as to remaine in my auin chargis beyd your sacred maieftie, that I micht haue that contentment as to fe your sacred maieftis perfoun ainis in the half zeir at left, quhar I fall conform my self to your sacred maieftis will and directioun, in all points. Gif non of thir satisfiis, that it will pleis your sacred maieftie to grant me licens, as the Erlle of Angus hes alredie gottin, to pas out of the contrey, and my wyff with me, uith securitie of our liuingis, quhar ue fall euer attend your sacred maieftis fauorable recalling quhanfoeuer it fall pleis your sacred maieftie to think the tyme proper. Sua, in thir and in all uthir thingis, as it fall pleis your sacred maieftie to inioine to me, euer offering my humble obediens, efter the kissing most humblie of your most sacred maieftis hand, I uill rest

Your most sacred Maieftis humble subiect  
and most affectionat seruiteur, to my  
lyuis end,

HUNTLYE.

At Stirling Castell, this xvij. of  
Junj [1610 ?]\*

To the Kyngs most sacred Maieftie.

\* This letter has no date. Assuming the oath to be that taken on the 13th and 17th of November 1609, it may probably be assigned to the following year. The Marquis appears subsequently to have been less molested by the clergy, and latterly was sworn in a Privy Councillor. Balfour says, vol. ii. p. 64. "This 27 of February [1617] George Marquis of Huntley was admitted and sworn a priuey counsellor, conforme to the order."



## CIV.—WARRANT BY JAMES VI. IN FAVOUR OF THE EARL OF ANGUS.

[1610?]

WHEREAS the French Ambaffadour, in the name of his maiestie the young king,\* and the quein his mother, hath made most earnest suite vnto vs on the behalfe of the Earle of Angus, to graunt vnto him such assurance of his estate as the lawes of that our kingdome could affoorde : And feeling it was neuer our intention that hee should be more hardly dealte withall then the Marquis of Huntley, or the Earle of Errole (whose obstinacy in their religioun is no lesse than his), and feeling that their liuings are putte to a pointe for their owne benefite, and his only of the thrie remayneth yet vnsettled : We haue thought good, by these presentes, to require you not only to take like order with his estate as hath bein taken with those of the other two, and to cause a signatour for that effect be sent vnto vs ; but likeuise, if any difficulty do occurre which may any way hinder the same, that you eyther by your selues take it away, or then adwertise vs, that wee may determine therein according as wee shall see cause ; and willing this to be done with all conuenient expeditioun, we, &c.†

## CV.—JAMES VI. TO THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

JULY 6, 1610.

THE bearer heiroy, Sufanna Declony, the wyife of Adrian Vanfon, sumtyme our painter, hath diuers tymes importuned ws with

\* Louis XIII.

† This and the following document are merely original drafts.

petitionis, defying payment of debtes dew to hir said late husband, alfeuell for wages as work done at our commandement: and becaus we ar willing to give hir all dew satisfactioun (and yett are ignorant what soume and vpoun what ground shee craveth), we haue by these presentis thocht good to will and requyre you particularly to enquire what is dew vnto her, and with all convenient expeditioun to certifie ws, vnder your hands, how muche we do iustlie ow hir, to the intent that we, so certified, may tak suche farder course for her satisfactioun as salbe most agreeable to reasone; and not doubting of your care heirin, we bid you fairweill. From our Court at Whitehall, the 6 of July 1610.

To the Counsell.

CVI.—THE EARL OF GLENCAIRN TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEASE YOUR MOIST SACREID MAIESTY,

I am forej fra my hart, that I am conffraynitt to fafche your maiestey, now in my awild age, with my wnwordey partecularis heir aganis my awin, cumen of my loynis, zett, remembering ewer your maieftis moift gratiowse contenance to me, I haif tane the bawildnefs to presume the famen. It is trew that my eldest sonne,\* being that thing erthely I moift respectitt and confiditt into, and thowght he fould haif bene my greateft helpe, to the weill of the rest of my scheeldering (by my expectatiowne and gud will), he mareitt him self, to my greitt grewe and his motheris, and to the losse and hurtt of my howse; and yet, mowitt be my frendis, and the cair I haid to the standing of my houffe, I remittitt that owirfycht in him wpon hoipe in tymes to cumme he fould haif kythitt mair obedyence, bot all in waine. Bot now he rynis feike ane malytiowse cowrse aganis me, that he perallis my credeitt and honour in feike forme, that I am laythe to expresse the famen be wrytt, leift I fould ower

\* William Lord Kilmaurs "married Katharine, daughter to Mark Ker, Lord Newbottle." Stewart's MS. Collections, Advocates' Library.

mosche fāsche 3owr maieftie; and therfoir I haif defyritt 3our maiefteis fecretar heir to delayte the haille fircumestancis betuix him and me att lenthe to 3owr maieftie, moift humblie crawling 3our maiefteis gratiowfe fawour and contenance to me now in my awild age, nocht to be croffitt with my awin bowellis, bot to haif commandymnt of my awin, fwa longe as I am to lewe in this pilgrymage, and that I may lewe behynd me the memorej of ane howffe to ferwe 3owr maieftej and 3owris. I can do no more, bott I fall ewer remane 3owr moift sacreid maiefteis ewer to ferwe, to the laft brethe, with als willing and trew ane hartt, as falbe in all 3owr maiefteis domynownis. And fwa, humblie crawling 3owr maiefteis pardowne for this my ewill wrytt and fāscheowffe lettir, humbill ferwice rememberitt to 3owr moift sacreid maieftej, I pray the Lord ewer to remane with 3owr maieftie, and to gif 3owr maieftie longe lyf and gud hailthe, with profeperowffe fukefesse, I reft

3owris moift sacreid Maiefteis moift humbill and  
obedyentt fubieēt, ewer redie, in all humillitie,  
to ferwe,

GLENCAIRNE.

[No date.]

To his moift sacreid Maieftie.

CVII.—THE EARLS OF DUNFERMLINE AND DUNBAR TO KING JAMES VI.  
JULY 27, 1610.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

Vpoun aduertifment gevin to ws that some pirott schippis  
had bene sene in the mouthe of this firth, and the same secundit by the

complaintis of a grite many of your maieſteis ſubieſtis, bothe in the weſt coaſt and heir on the eaſt, of the vnquietnes and haſaird of paſſage by reaſoun of the frequencie of Ingliſhe pirottis on the ſea, and ſpeciallie of one of Caithnes, who, in his paſſing home, wes robde of all that he had, and bothe by him and by the repoirt of otheris who had mett ſome of thoſe pirottis on the ſea, being certified that thay wer gone towardis the Orknay Ylandis, we being moved and grevit with the complaint of your maieſteis poore people, and being loathe to impeſhe your maieſteis vtheris weyghtie affairis with the aduertifment thair of, whill we had done ſome thing thairin oure ſelfis, and wiſheing that in a mater of this qualitie (admitting hardlie ony delay, wherin the omitting of the preſent occaſion might doe muche harme), your maieſtie ſould rather find vs cairfull of our dewytie then otherwayes remiſe or negligent, we did heirupoun preſentlie direct three of the beſt ſchippis at that tyme within the harbour of Leyth, wee le mannit, and furniſſit with all weirlyke prouiſioun (your maieſteis awne ſchip at that tyme not being arryved heir), and having gevin vnto thame expreſ directioun and charge to mak ſearche and to follow quhidder ſoeuir thay could apprehend thoſe pirottis; and our ſchippis having mett with thame vpoun the coaſt of the mayne land of Orknay, thay having twa failis, the one a ſchip aboue 200, the other a choiſe pinnace of 100, efter a bloodie conflict, in whiche twa of oure men wer killed and findrie hurte, the pinnace being excellent in failleing, maid choiſe rather by flight to ſaife hirſelf then by ony langer ſtay to abyde the haſaird of taking; and albeit ſcho wes followed for a ſpace, yitt did ſcho ſtill gayne ground, wherupoun hir perſute being left of, the other grite ſchip in the meane quhyle being boordit, wes brought away by oure ſchippis, and in hir wer takin to the number of threttie able men, befydis ſome few priſonnaris whome theſe pirottis did keepe aboorde, who, after they had bene dewlie and ſeuerall tymes examined, at laſt all theſe threttie wer putt to thair tryall and found guiltye; of whiche number xxvij ar execute and putt to death, of whome there wer twa captaines, by name Captaine Perkyne and Captaine Randall. The other three ar reprivit and continewit vntill ſuche tyme as your maieſteis pleaſour be knowne, in regairde that thair is hoip by thair farder examinatioun, to

learne oute some thingis tuitcheing the estate. We haif alreddy discouerit some mater of abuse, hoiping to finde more oute, wherby this grite increfce of piracye hathe bene by some, far aganis thair dewyteis to your maiestie, too muche fosterit and mantenit : bot of the particularis of the same, as vnwilling to committ thame to wryte, your maiestie falbe certified at lenth by your maiesteis secretarye of this kingdome, who is shortlie to mak his repair thither. In the mean quhyle, the personis of those men whose lyves ar spaired, falbe faiflie kept and maid furthecomeand ather for forder examinatioun heir, or vpoun knowlege of your maiesteis pleasour falbe broght thither to be tryed. Ther wer also mony pregnant presumptionis, that however these men now spairit wer deprehendit in the societie of the rest, that the same wes more by enforcement then by consent, whiche wes affirmed by the most parte of thame who wer executed. This company of pirottis did interteyne one whome thay did call thair perfoun, for saying of prayeris to thame twyfe a day, who, be-lyke ather wearyed of his cure, or fearing the ensewing distructioun of his flocke, had foirfaken thame in Orknay, and priuelie conveying him selff over land, wes at lenth descryed and deprehendit in the burgh of Dundee, and being broght hither, did so cleirly confes and gif evidence aganis the rest, and, being confronted, broght mony of thame to confession. Thair being heirwith some likliehoode that his stay with thame had bene by constraint, we haif heirupoun, in lyke soirt, continewit him frome being putt to tryale, vntill your maiesteis pleasour be knowne. We do vnderstand, by aduertisment from Orknay, that thair be some fyve or sax pirottis mo deprehendit, bot quhidder thay be of this company or not, it is vncertane. Alwayes we do expect thame by the first occasioun of ony schipping that dothe come frome thense; and since none of ws ar ignorant that by reasoun of aduertismentis not onlie frome all the cornaris of your maiesteis owne dominionis, bot alsua frome foreyne partis, your maiestie hes nevir almost ony intermissioun or respitt (your maiestie, by Godis prouidence, and to your subiectis vnspeakable happynes, being that grite oceane vnto whiche all revaris and brookis do rinne), as in dewytie we could not omitt to acquent your maiestie heirwith, so the feir of troubling your maiestie with too long a lettre, hathe

moved ws to refer the particular relatioun of all the incidentis in this busynes to a more proper occasioun. And concerning all fuche other directiounis as it pleased your maiestie, ather by commiffioun sent be the Lord Burley, or by lettre writtin vnto ony of ws concerning the Marques Huntley, the Erll of Errole, or ony other mater worthie of the aduertifing, your maiestie falbe certified of all these oure proceedingis by the secretarie at his repair to your maiestie. And so, praying God to blisse your maiestie with a lang, happy, and prosperous reignn, we rest for ever

Your Maiesteis most humble and obedient subiectis  
and feruitouris,

DUNFERMELINE.  
DOUMBAR.\*

Edinburgh, 27 July 1610.

To the King his most sacred and  
excellent Maiestie.

CVIII.—SIR ROBERT MELVILLE TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS 3OUR MOST SACRED MAIESTIE, .

Accept, in guid pairt, the willing affectioun of one of the eldest, althocht not the most abill, of 3our maiesteis fervandis and creatouris,

\* Lord Dunbar died a few months afterwards, and was succeeded in the management of the Scots business by John Murray, subsequently Viscount Annand and Earl of Annandale. The Earl's death is thus noticed by Calderwood:—"In the moneth of January (1611), the Earle of Dunbar departed this life at court, not without suspicioun of poisons, because my Lord of Kinlosse, Lord of the Rolls, a Scottishman, placed in that office be the King at his going to England, had died a little before. Howsoever it was, the Earle was by death pulled down from the height of

quho for acquytin of the trust it hes euer pleasit zour maiestie to reposit in me, I can nocht be silent at this tyme to congratulat to zour maiestie that poynt of zour maiesteis felicitie, quhairwith God hes bliffit zow in the quyet, happie, and weill gouerned estait of this zour maiesteis native and ancient kyngdome. The cauffis quhairoff, nixt zour maiesteis most rair and princelie wofdome in directing so wyselie euerie thing tending to the wniuerfall weill of ws all, I can not in my simpill judgment bot ascrywe the fame to the fidelitie and cair of zour maiesteis principall officiaris and fervandis, in quhome so vorthely ze haif fatlit the burdeine of the affairis. For as to the Erle of Dumbar, quhois fidelitie and cair to the guid fortoun in the succes of thingis committit to him I knaw not quhilk to commend most, all that is in him being zour maiesteis awin: his behauour dois so raweis all men, that his actiounes ar interpret to be zour inspiratiounes, and the circumstancis of thame flowing from the same fontane: in my tyme, quhilk hes not beine fchort in this stait, I haif not seine the lyke. The Chancellor, quhois vpbringing and painfull trauell hes maid him ane gret staitis man, being lykwayis directit by zour maiesteis commandement, hes applyit his knowledge and lerning to so proffitable endis, to the honour, aduancement, and quyetnes of this estait, hes, nixt zour maiesteis awin pairt, the prais of the bliffit and happie conditioun quhairin the cuntrie standis, quhilk, by zour maiesteis absence, was thocht to haif beine hard to pacifie. And, feing it fallis out so happely in zour maiesteis gret wofdome, that thay ar boith present with zour maiestie, and willing to reffaiff frome zour awin mouth the guid acceptatioun of thair service, quhilk is the gretest honour and contentment they can haiff, and maist willing to obey zour maiesteis directiounes in all tyme cuming, I haiff takin the bauldnes, maist humlie, to intrett

his honour, even when he was about to solemnize magnificently his daughter's mariage with the Lord Waldane: he purposed to celebrat St George's Day following at Berwick, where he had almost finished a sumptuous and glorious palace. But the curse was executed upon him that was pronounced upon the building of Jericho; he was too busie, and left nothing undone to overthrow the discipline of our church, and speciallie at the Assemblie holden the last summer at Glasgow; but none of his posteritie enjoyeth a foot broad of land this day of his conquest in Scotland. He ended his days in Whitehall, upon Wednesday, the penult of January." Calderwood MS. vol. xiv. p. 465. Advocates' Library.

your maieftie, that feing thair guid concurrence in accomplifhing your royall vill, hes bred your maieftie the honour of this our happines and confort to all your fubie&ctis; that your maieftie, according to your accuftummed clemencie, will tak that notice of thair labouris that may incurage thame to continow, and to knyt thame togidder in thair affectioun to your maiefteis feruice, and to the weill of our natiwe cuntray, as fo monie guid courfis bye your maiefteis princely dere&ctioun fo happelye and wyllie folloued furthe to the guid lyking of all men, quhilk being effectuallie done, your maieftie may be richt affured that all thingis in thir pairtis will fucced to your maiefteis contentment. For my felf, fo far as my age and abilitie may ferve, all falbe fpend in your maiefteis feruice; and quhair I find any thing amifs, I fall euer mak your maieftie foirfeine; not doutting bot as your maieftie hes euer accepted moir gratiouf-lye of my waik endeuoirs nor they war worthie, fo your maieftie will tak this my prefumptioun in guid pairt.

Humble taking my leif, kyffing your maiefteis hand, I praye God grant your maieftie ane happie and prosperous reing, in quhois gracious protectioun I commit your maieftie.\*

Your Maiefteis maift humble and obedient fubie&ct  
and feruitour,

ROBERT MELUILL.

To the Kingis facred Maieftie.

\* This letter is undated; but as Lord Dunbar is represented in life, and as he died in January 1611, it must have been written anterior to that period. Sir Robert Melville was frequently ambassador to England. In January 1587, he was sent to remonstrate against the execution of Mary Queen of Scots. He was constituted, on 11th June 1594, an extraordinary Lord of Session, by the title of Murdocairnie, which office he resigned in favour of his son Robert in 1601. Upon the 30th April 1616 he was created a peer by the title of Lord Melville of Monymail, by patent to him and the heirs-male of his body, whom failing, to the heirs-male of his elder brother John. His Lordship died in 1621, having attained the age of 94. He was the immediate elder brother of Sir James Melville of Halhill, author of those valuable Memoirs, of which the first complete edition was some years since printed by the Bannatyne Club.



## CIX.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

MAY 3, 1611.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

According to your maieſteis directioun, fend vnto ws, for trying of the diſpoſitioun and formar maner of leving of James Johnneſtoun, priſonair in the tolbuith of Edinburgh, who wes condemned to loſe his hand for ſchoiting of piſtollettis, we haif tane als exact ane tryall and examinatioun in that mater as poſſibillie we could, and (ſaulffing that particulair of piſtollettis) we do find no thing in his bipaſt behaviour and carriage, whilk may onywayes bring him within the compas or censure of law, he being aquate and clengeit of all vtheris crymis at that tyme when he was pannellit befor the Erll of Dunbar, and ſen his committing to the tolbuith we haif not hard ſo mutche as one complaynte aganis him, bot very grite ſoliſtatioun maid for his libertie and releif. And ſo, remitting him to your maieſteis gracious and princelie confideratioun, and praying God to bliſſe your maieſtie with all happines and contentment, we reſt for ever

Your Maieſteis moſt humble and obedyent  
ſubiectis and ſeruitouris,

AL. CANCELL<sup>s</sup>.

JO. PRESTOUN.

SIR J. ARNOTE.

PERTH.

CLERICUS REGISTR<sup>i</sup>.

Edinburgh, the thrid of May 1611.

To the King his moſt ſacred and excellent  
Maieſtie.

## CX.—THE UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS TO KING JAMES VI.

MAY 4, 1611.

SACRED SOUERANE,

May it please your most excellent majestie. The most reuerend father in God, your majesties most trustie counsellour the Archbishop of Sanctandroufs, our werie prudent chancellor, hauing informit vs, the Rector, Deanes of Faculties, and remanent Maisteris of your majesties Vniuersitie of Sanctandroufs, hou cairful your maiestie is of the flourishing estait thairof, particularlie of the dedicatioune of ane commoune Bibliotheque thairto, quhairby learning (throche bypast penurie of buikis sumquhat decaying) may be, to the benefit of the kirk and commoune-veil, refuscitat, and vee within this your majesties Vniuersitie, moir inhablit to your majesties seruice, ve can nocht without the blot of detestable ingratitude and inexcusable vndeutifulnes to your majestie, as our most gracious and beneficent prince, bot vithe all humilitie of mynd and bodie, most hartlie thanke your majestie thairfoir; and, with the lyk humilitie in houp to be hard, most earnistlie intreat your majestie to perfytylly profecute that particulare purpoise of liberalitie towardis vs; and, generallie, according to the laudable dispositioun of your majesties royal progenitoris of blifed memorie, to continoue to the immortalitee of your majesties name, in aduancing be moiens and priuældges this your majesties principal and most renommed Vniuersitee within this realme. Thus, vithe permiffioun, presuming to assure your majestie of our most deutiful affection to your majesties seruice and furtherance thairof, ather in kirk or commoune-veil, according to our pouer and vocatione, vee, frome the bottome of our hartis, vniformlie recommend your majesties royal perfoune and estait to the Almichtie God, quho may blefs your majestie in this lyf with a long



Your Masters most humble  
And obedient Servants and  
Subjectis

Master John Adams Rector.

M<sup>r</sup> James Martin

M<sup>r</sup> David Monypenny

~~M<sup>r</sup>~~ Robert Wallace

Mr John Johnston,

M Patrick Malvill

Peter Bruce.

M<sup>r</sup> Jas. Wemyse

M<sup>r</sup> George Martin

Master John Shing.

M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Maddoscoe

M<sup>r</sup> Aliza Gumblesby

M<sup>r</sup> Der vilia Lambie

M Robert Houzo

Master James Shaw

Master James Shew

M<sup>r</sup> Handrie Daintier





and prosperous raigne; and with ane eternal and glorious in the lyf to cum.

Your Majesties most humble and obedient  
servitoris and subiectis,

Maister JHONE WEMIS, Rector.

Mr JAMES MARTINE.

Mr DAVID MONYPENNIE.

Mr ROBERT WILKIE.

Mr JHONE JONSTON.

Mr PATRIK MALVILL.

PETER BRUCE.

Mr JA. WEMYSE.

Mr GEORGE MARTINE.

Maister JHONE STRANG.

Mr WM. MACDOWELL.

Mr ALEX<sup>r</sup>. HENDERSON.

Maister WILLIAM LAMBIE.

Mr ROBERT HOVYE.

Maister JAMES BLAIR.

Maister JAMES SCHEVEZ.

Mr HENDRIE DANSKEIN.

Sanctandrous, 4 Maij 1611.

CXL.—KING JAMES VI. TO SIR ARTHUR CHICHESTER.\*

SEPTEMBER 14, 1611.

JAMES R.

Right trustie and welbeloued, wee greete yow well. The Lord Ochiltree,† a noble man of Scotland, of good desert toward vs, being an

\* Sir Arthur Chichester, Lord Deputy of Ireland, who obtained considerable grants of land in the province of Ulster, and was created a peer of Ireland by the title of Lord Chichester of Belfast, 23d February 1612. He died without lawful issue, at London, 19th February 1624, when his estates, almost entirely derived from the old Irish families, passed to his brother, Sir Edward Chichester, who was created Viscount Chichester, 1st April 1625. From him the present Marquis of Donegal is lineally descended. The old barony of Chichester is extinct.

† Andrew, third Baron of Ochiltree. From a letter without date, addressed by him to James, he appears to have been involved in pecuniary difficulties in consequence of his employment in the Isles under his Majesty's order. He supplicates the King to order the council to audit and pass his accounts, so that he might be enabled to settle with his creditors. In conclusion, he entreats "your highnes for eschewing the present wraik and rwyne of my old house, who hath bene so long

vndertaker of a portion of the efcheated landes in Vlster, and now going thether to fettle himfelfe and his company on the landes of Montioy, for the eftimatioun we mak of him, wee haue thought fitte to accompany him with our lettres, whereby to let yow know that whatfoeuer fauour yow fhall do him, in furtherance of his well fetling in that place which he hath vndertaken, wee fhall take in kinde parte, as beftowed on a nobleman vnto whome wee wifh all goode fuccesse. Giuen at our mannour of Hauering, the xiiij<sup>th</sup> of September, in the eight yeare of our reigne of Greate Britayne, Fraunce, and Irland, and of Scotland the xlv<sup>th</sup>.

To our right truftie and welbeloued Sir  
 .Arthur Chichefter, Knight, our Deputy of our kingdome of Irland.

CXII.—THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BURGHS TO KING JAMES VI.

TO HIS SACRED MAIESTIE,

The humbill Petitioune of the Commiffioneris for the Burrowghes  
 of 3owr Maiefties Kingdome of Scotland, in the behalf of the  
 faid Burrowghes,

MAIST humblie befeeching 3owr facred maieftie as the onlie fontane,  
 vnder God, of iustice, and nixt wnto him, the velfpring of our happines,

loyall subjects and true seruands," to order a payment to account. It is probable, as the King's Exchequer was not usually overflowing with cash, that Lord Ochiltree got the Irish grants in payment of his claim. He was created an Irish peer by the title of Lord Steuart, Baron of Castlestewart, in the county of Tyrone, 7th November 1619. He died in 1632. His descendant and heir-male, Andrew Thomas Steuart, the sixth Baron, was created, 20th December 1793, Viscount, and 29th December 1800, Earl of Castlestewart. Andrew Lord Ochiltree is said to have resigned his Scottish honours in 1615, which were then conferred on Sir James Stewart of Killeith, in whose family the Barony became extinct. The Earl of Castlestewart claimed, however, the Scottish Barony; but the House of Peers, 16th April 1793, decided that his vote, given as Lord Ochiltree, at the election of Scots peers, was a bad one.



feing we haif had acceffe vnto 3owr facred prefence, that it wold pleis 3owr maieftie, off 3owr accustomid fauour and clemenfie, to pardoune and forgiff owir owirfichtt (and many mo 3owr maiefties faithfull and loyall fubiectis, quho ar wnder the fame fenfour with ws) in taking abuiff ten for the hundreith, contrar to 3owr maiefties aët: the occatioune quhairof was, that the fame tuik newer plaice by executioun, it being now past fourteine or fyfteine 3eiris fence the inacting of the fame, fwa, that all perfounis of quhatfumewer rank, eftait, or conditioune thay be of, hes takin tuelf for the hundreith, quhilk was authorifed be decreitis of the Lordis of Seffioune, allowitt be the Loirdis of 3owr maiefties Exchaker to the thefawrer, contròller, and wtheris: quhilkis warrandis our owirficht heth imbaldnit ws of the mener fort (ignorant of the lawis and mening thairof), to commit the lyk by imitatioune, and not of contempt: alfo, the neceffitie and fkairfnes of mony,\* owir countrie not yeilding the lyk ftoir as wtheris, and the neceffitie of the adois of the countrie amangis owirfelwis and elifquhair, maid the fame moir tollerabill, fupposing tollerance to be law. And feing this is the first fute of 3owr maiefteis burrowis fence the vnfpicabill lois of 3owr maiefteis happie prefence and aboid amangis ws, quhairby we haif loift all ftrenth and vigour, and ar becum as deid and rotin ftoikis, 3owr maiefteis prefence being the fontane thatt did watter and refreche ws, we humblie befeik 3owr maieftie to pardoune owir bygainie ignorance and owirfichtt anentt tuelf of the hundreth, and to none wtheris, promiffing all lawfull obedience in tymis cuming.

Nixt, that it wold pleis 3owr maieftie to difchairge the exacting or heichting of the cuftomes of hering, cloth, hydis, fkinis, and fuch wther ftapill waris of that kingdome, being the onlie waris quhich bringeth home gould, filwer, wyne, faltt, irne, and fuch wther neceffaris, by importing quhairof, 3owr maiefteis cuftomes ar inlairgid.

Thridlie, that it wald pleis 3owr sacreitt maieftie the exacting of cuf-

\* Some interesting notices relative to the scarcity of coin in Scotland will be found in the Melros Papers.

tomes for transporting of gudis in tyme bygaine, frome Ingland to Scotland.

Last, that it wold pleis zowr maiestie to dischairge the exacting of bulyen for ony tred wfed within zowr heichnes dominiounis, feing that zowr maiesteis awin coyne can not be conwertid into bulyon; and as we ewer heirtofoir hes beine moift willing and redy to facrifice owr lywis, and quhatfumewer we had befydis for zowr maiesteis honour and fastie, so fall we ewer continow, with our moift dewot and hertlie prayeris to God, for zowr maiesteis prosperus and hapie regne.

CXIII.—W. WHEITFURDE TO JOHN MURRAY.

MAY 16, 1612.

RICHT HONORABILL,

I trust your honour hes reffaued my letter, whairin I did answer your last thatt cam to me in the ende of Marche, and schew yow your biffines could nott be enditt with Mr Ro<sup>t</sup>. Henderfone, till Mr Thomas Hope\* his returne to the toun, who was then gone to Londwait. Yow falbe fure in grace of God, att his returne, thatt biffines falbe done as Mr Thomas fall direct, as Mr Robert is most willing, wpon the sight of your last letter which I schew him, and expectes yow will tak fay euir with Mathow Wilfone being thair now with yow, that he fall quitt his posseffioun of your myll and maynes, which is most fitting yow fould do, Sir (favand your awin pleasour and better judgment), for since he herd yow wer to bestow itt wpon Mr Robert, he hes vttered a fort of contrie clayme to itt, and grudged with Mr Robert for taking his kyndlie rowme, and foe far as I can learne, howfoewer yow may, Sir, mak vse of him in wther services, he is nott a fitt man thair to menage your rent, for he hes

\* Afterwards Sir Thomas Hope, Lord Advocate.

principall entries in thaes landes, be clayme of his kyndlie poffeffioun,\* as thaes peopill do esteam itt, and most credite with the rest of thatt fort, thatt he doeth no wther, bott be all menis ftryue to keip thaes landes att the meifest rate he can, thocht he do itt cunninglie and covertlie. Befyd, I haue learned thatt he suffers thair of his nyctbouris to incroache in the poffeffioun of some off your rowmes, who feik to keip thame be wther titillis then of your landes, and be tyme will bruik thame fo; as, namelie, Rammerskaillis thrie darkis of meidow, and John Maxwell in Lochmaben, ane clofe of land. Itt may be thair be wtheris, I haue nott lerned, for I am a mere stranger thair, and that thir be bott mein thinges. Do, Sir, as yow please. I thocht it my dewtie fo soone as I learned this muche, not to conceill itt. Yow may lykwayes, Sir, try how the fyscheing of your loche is vfed; and when Robert Philip and Mathow is both thair with yow, yow may try, Sir, gif yow can fynd outt of thame, examining ather of thame apairt from the wther, who wer the instigatouris of thaes tenentis of youris, to present to his maiestie a complaynt of yow, and giff Mathow wes accessorie to itt.

The commiffioners of the Middle Schyres ar verie cairfull in discharge of thair commiffioun, hath apprehenditt a gritt many kept prifoners to this enfewing court, that doeth muche good for the quyetnes of the contrie, which in all liklihood er now, gif this course had nott prevented, bein in verie greatt disorder. Yow haue done, Sir, verie honorable in joyning your selff in this commiffioun; and itt is grittumlie to your honour, and furtherance of your biffines in this contrie, this course in repreffing of infolenceis and villaneis thus proceids. Thair is one thing enlaiking, muche hinderfome to this fervice, that thair is no jayll in Annandaill. Itt is a worthie and memorabill work for yow, Sir, to bethink yourselff of the meines to help itt, and whairin nott the leift help of the quyetnes of this

\* Wilson seems to have been one of the kindly rentallers of the four townis of Lochmaben, who were said to have come in place of some favoured servants of Robert the Bruce, who had obtained their small possessions by a species of tenure unknown in any other case of heritage in Scotland, and whose representatives could not be removed by the Overlord, although possessing without charter or seisin. See *Case of Kindly Tenants of Lochmaben v. Viscount of Stormont*, Nov. 24, 1726. Morison, p. 15, 195.

contrie confistes. Captane Jhonstoun and a number of his fervandes, for a slauchter of the Laird of Wamfrayes brother, ar escaiped, and for wther cawses ar cited to this court, and itt is thocht falbe fugitive. The captane hes putt Drumlangrig in trust of his estate, who hes taken the gift of his escheitt and lyfrent. Heir itt is thocht the captaine is att court. Giff he can mak meins for him himselff, I doutt nott, Sir, yow will be his freind; bot gif things go werse with him, a pairt of his estate he haldis of yow, whairoff yow may confidder whatt is fitting to be done. He embarked himselff in the purchase of the fortie pund land of Corheid, quhairon the toun of Mofseitt standis, which is one of the prettie thinges in this contrie. Gif the occasioun present that ather, Sir, yow may doo him good as his friend, or that none of his freindis can do him good, yow may accordinglie confidder. Thair is warning vfed in your name aganes the landes of Longboddome this yeir, which many conjecture this long tyme, hes holden of the Starr of Babylon; and so yow will do weill, Sir, to desyr your agent to prevent gif thei seik any new richt. Thus, entreiting your honouris pardon of this my boldnes, I commend yow and all your effairis to the blessing of God, and fall remane

Your Honouris most affectionatlie devoted  
in all service,

W. WHEITFURDE.

Moffet, Maij 16, 1612.

To the Richt Honorabill Jhone Murray  
of Lochmaben, one of his Maiesties  
Bedchamber, these.

CXIV.—W. WHEITFURDE TO JOHN MURRAY.

MAY 28, 1612.

RICHT HONORABILL,

I trust, Sir, yow haue ressaued a letter whairin I writt to yow concerning Captane Jhonstoun. He is now fugitive from this court

holden at Dumfreis, for thift, and a man of his hanged as accefforie to thatt thift whairfor he wes to be endyted. Whatt falbe the event, Sir, yow may better judge then I: Itt seames thair is no way for him bott be his maiesties favour. In the meintyme, his freindis feir his estate fall in the kinges hand; being a landed gentilman and fugitive for thift, falles vnder the compas of treason. A pairt of itt holdes of your felff; most pairt of the Laird of Drumlangrig, as being of the landes of Torthorrell. This mekill, I thocht itt my dewtie to advertife yow of, Sir: Yow can better dispose then I can advyse. One thing he had, a entres in the landis of Corheid and Mofeitt, whilk gif yow had, itt wer easie to purchase the full titill thairroff. Bot craveing pardoun of this my presumptioun, I commend yow to the directioun and blessing of the hiest and onlie wife, and fall evir remane .

Your Honouris humble serviteur, most  
affectionatlie devoted,

W. WHEITFURDE.

Moffett, May 28, 1612.

To the Richt Honorabill Jhone Murray  
of Lochmaben, one of his Maiesties  
Bedchamber, these.

CXV.—THE MAGISTRATES OF CANONGATE TO KING JAMES VI.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1612.

PLEIS 3OUR EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

Thair being nane of 3our subiectis of this kingdome quho be  
not grevit with the want of 3our gracious prefence, 3et non haif fuch caus,

or ar moir fenfibill of the lois, then 3our pure and ever dewtyfullie devotit burgh of Cannogate, quho do now fynd a cauld nipping wynter for the fweit feaffonable fomer they inioyit in 3our maiesties stay heir, and zit hald thame felffis happie heirin with the rest of 3our fubieētis, that thaj inioy the benefite of 3our maiesties most iust, royall, and bliffit gouernament, fully perfwading thame felfis, now quhen the fardest limeittis and bordouris of 3our impyre (ones thocht almost impossible) ar brocht to that fredome frome thraldome as thair resteth no farder feir of opprefioun, that 3our maiesties said burgh and inhabitantis thairof fall not want fum refresching frome that same welfspring of grace, in being proteētit frome the wrang and iniurie intentit vnder cullour of perfute by law, zit more vniust then quhat is done vtherwayis in a moir oppin schaw of violence. And, thairfoir, we haif bene bauld heirby to mak humble treatty to 3our maiestie for passing and expeding this article of parliament in our favouris, be ane so iust and reffonable, as we skairslie do beleif that any falbe opposed to the expeding thairof; and that 3our maiestie wald thairwith recomend by speciall lettre the same to the estates, for a teftimonie of 3our maiesties continewing favour to the inhabitantis of this pure burgh of the Cannogait, quho wer alwayis reddy and wald think thame felffis still happie to be imployit in the service of 3our maiestie, 3our court and trayne. And so, wiffing frome God the happie continewance of 3our maiesties gracious regnne over ws, we humblie tak our levis, resting

3our Maiesties most humble and obedient  
and devotit fubieētis,

Mr **JOHNE HART**, Bailze.  
Mr **W. WILKIE**, Bailze.

At 3our Maiesties Burgh of the Cannogait,  
the xxvj. day of September 1612.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

## CXVI.—SIR DUNCAN CAMPBELL TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 2, 1613.

PLEIS 3OUR EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

Your heighnes lettres, writtin in fauoris of Robert Abbroche McGregour,\* now calling himself Ramfay, I haue reffaveit, quhairby I am willit to repoffesse him in quhatfoeuer landis he haith rycht wnto, without truble or plea in law. It is of treuthe that he did possess certane landis belonging to me without ony rycht or titill at all, yea, so far againis my consent, that with remembrance of my verie grit loiffis, I fall repent I had fuche tennent; and quhen he, as one of the cheif speceall ringleadaris of his viperous clan, did nocht content thamefelfis to wrong me by the moift barbarous oppressing of my tennentis, but had also ovir-rwne ane grit pairt of thre or foure shirefdomeis, than the generale greif of sa mony dewtefull subiectis maid the exterminioun of this damnable raice of people to be reffolueit wpone, as moift expedient and necessary for your maiesteis peace and obedience, and the suretye of your heighnes dewtefull subiectis duelling in thais pairtis; whiche work, since it tuik begining, haith bene euer chairgable to your maiestie, panefull to the cuntrie, and with my particular very grit hurt and skayth, haueing had, besydes, many former loifes within les nor thais xvij monethis, twa hundrethe merk land waistit and spoiled be that clan, conducted by this sam man now recommendit; my tennentis, thair wyfis and young childrene wnmercefullie mwrthoured, and sick of thame as eschaipit the fworde, in regaird thair houffis wer all brunt, being left in the oppin air, boithe the aigit and 3ounger fort wer killit with colde. It may perhapis by sum be supponit that this seruice is at sum gud poynt; bot quhen all, boithe noble men, barrounis, and gentilmen, who haith moift interefs in this work, wer conveyned, than it wes amang thame resolved, and by thame to your maiesteis counfall proponed, and thair also allowit of, that without transplantatioun of this clan, no quyetnes to thais boundis culd

• See Melros Papers.

be expected; so as this manis repoffessioun to any landis, whiche by strong hand he held formerlie without any richt at all, implyis a derect ranverfing of quhateueir was intendit for the gude of that seruice, the particular harme and inconvenience quhairof being wnfelt, no dout, to thais who hes bene so eirneft folicitouris in the behalf of this man, so ar thay als far mistakin in thair wndertaking for his gud behaviour in tyme cuming, in regaird thair is no dout at all, bot quhen he findis himself of new strentned with a fresche growth of this wnhappie weid (quhairof thair be of male kynd sum xvj<sup>xx</sup> of new aryfeing), lyke aneuche he will put who promissis in his behalf to ane personall actioun for thair releif.

And becaus hard experience haithe maid me more sensible nor wtheris, and my dewtie to your maiestie doithe enforce me to conceale no thing of my knowlege heirin, I haue thairfoir presumed to acquaint your heighnes withe the treuthe; affureing your maiestie one my credit, that giff the ringleadaris of this clan fall haue the libertie to dwell and reside in thair former possessiounis, this wndercotting woude fall be found heirefter moire incurable. Alwayse, for my awin pairt, haueing lyfe and whoile estait euir reddie at your maiesteis dispoifeing, I moift humblie tak my leif, praying God Almychtie to continew long your heighnes happie and prosperous reigne, and restis

Your Maiesteis moift humble and obedient seruitoure,

DUNCAN CAMPBELL  
of Glenurquhay.\*

Edenbruche, the 2 of Februarj 1613.

To the King his moift excellent Maiestie.

\* Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenurquhy was in great favour with King James VI. He assisted at the coronation of Queen Anne, 18th May 1590, when he was knighted. In 1617, he had the office of heritable Keeper of the Forest of Mamlorn conferred on him, and obtained from King Charles I. the Sheriffship of Perthshire for life. He was created a baronet by patent bearing date 30th May 1625, and dying in June 1631, was buried at Finlarig. He is the direct ancestor of the present Marquis of Breadalbane.



## CXVII.—JACOBUS VI. CIVITATI GEDANENSI.

[1613 ?]

JACOBUS, Dei gratia Britanniarum, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor, &c. magnificis, generosis, et spectabilibus Dominis Præconfulibus, Confulibus, totique amplissimo regiæ ciuitatis Gedanensis Senatui, amicis nostris dilectis, salutem et beneuolentiam nostram regiam, &c. Magnifici, generosi, et spectabiles viri, amici nostri dilecti, literas uestras, amicitiae et amoris erga nos subditosque nostros plenas, jam pridem nobis reddidit famulus noster Patricius Gordonius, qui etiam ore tenus singularem amplitudinum uestrarum in regii nominis nostri fama et dignitate, aduersus iniquissimas malitioforum quorundam obtrectatorum dispersas per famosos libellos calumnias, afferenda, curam et diligentiam abunde exposuit. Quæ omnia vt prudentiæ et iudicio vestro tribuenda agnoscimus, ita a nobis maximas et habendas et referendas gratias jure optimo censemus, nullasque gratificandi rationes, commoda oblata occasione, negligemus. Quod ad societatem Anglorum mercatorum alicubi in Borussia stabiliendam attinet, etsi serenissimi Poloniæ Regis vestramque voluntatem perspeximus, et in eadem acquiescere lubenter cuperemus, tamen ne vicinis vrbibus, aut subditis etiam nostris, vllam justæ offensionis causam præbere videremur, præfidi societatis illius, eiusque assessoribus iniunximus, vt (si vobis id gratum fuerit), sex homines idoneos mandatorio nostro adiungant, quibus negotii illius curam cum plena transigendi potestate committendam duximus; vt exploratis conditionibus a vobis vicinisque ciuitatibus proponendis, commodis et securitati suæ consulant. Transactionis articulos nobis confirmandos referuari volumus: cætera quæ ad tractatus initium, progressum, euentum, et ad ciuium uestrorum subditorumque nostrorum commodum pertinent, vestræ prudentiæ et promisso relinquimus.

## CXVIII.—JACOBUS VI. JOHANNI SPEMANNO.

[1613?]

MAGNIFICE et generose Spemanne, sincerum gentis tuæ, totiusque amplissimi fenatus regiæ civitatis Gedanensis erga nos subditosque nostros amorem sapius perpeximus; nosque ad eundem omni benevolentia regiæ compensandum merito obligatos esse lubenter agnoscimus. Inprimis vero gentis tuæ virtutes egregiæ nos tibi maxime devinxerunt, effeceruntque ut negotium non valde difficile prudentiæ tuæ seorsum commendaremus. Famofus libellus, ad ignominiam totius gentis Scoticæ, in Prussia ante annos aliquot divulgatus, vestro et amplissimorum collegarum vestrorum jussu et auctoritate in urbe vestra prohibitus et suppressus est, quod nos maximum benevolentiae et prudentiæ argumentum, nec oblivioni tradendum existimavimus. Ejusdem libelli auctorem Johanem Stircovium\* mandarius noster Patricius Gordonius ad extremum supplicium, juxta provinciae illius [leges], est persecutus. Cumque actio illa magnis sumptibus con-

\* The execution of Stircovius, which, in these days, would very properly be deemed as an act of atrocious barbarity, was regarded in a very different light two centuries since, when it was considered as a most proper and necessary proceeding. This unfortunate Pole had, it seems, paid a visit to Scotland, but was not received with that hospitality and kindness for which, in more modern times, that kingdom was so justly celebrated. His strange dress excited astonishment, and his odd dialect ridicule. He was jeered, hooted, and actually laughed out of the country. Home he returned, and the first thing he did was to pen the "famosus libellus," which excited the ire of the sapient James, who lost no time in bringing to condign punishment the unfortunate scribbler. By the instrumentality of Patrick Gordon, the author of the "Bruce," Stircovius was apprehended, tried, convicted, sentenced, and beheaded. All this could not be done without money, and of necessity a considerable sum was expended; his Majesty, although desirous of vindicating the dignity of the Scottish nation, was not inclined to do so at his own expense, and he modestly proposed to make the Scottish boroughs the sufferers. To this proposition, however, the various magistrates were not disposed to listen:—so the King took proceedings against his refractory subjects before the Lords of the Secret Council. To his great vexation, the proposed Judges held they had no jurisdiction, and refused to proceed. The King was thus obliged to have recourse to some other expedient, and accordingly he appears to have written to the magistrates of Dantzic the letter now first printed, by which he proposes to tax all his subjects resident there. The decret of absolvitor in favour of the boroughs was printed from the original among the papers of the city of Edinburgh in a private publication, entitled *Nugæ Scoticæ*.

fliterit, et adhuc non exigua summa urbis vestræ incolis perfolvenda restet, consuetissimum nobis visum est, ut subditi nostri, tam in urbe vestra degentes quam e Polonia et Prussia eo advenientes, qui cum vicinis paria onera in negotio illo Starcoviano non sustinuerunt, illis pro ratione census adæquentur, donec tota summa residua plene perfolvatur, et Davidi Graio pro maximis laboribus in negotio illo conficiendo exantlatis ex equo et bono satisfiat. Quapropter ut gentis tuæ jussu et consilio homines idonei elegantur, qui hujus rei curam habeant, pecuniam a volentibus colligant, a nolentibus, vestra auctoritate freti, exigant, rationemque diligentiae et fidelitatis reddant, vehementer rogamus. Factura gens tua rem nobis gratissimam, et, uti opportunitas offerat, regio favore nostro dignam.

Magnifico et generoso Domino Johanni Spemanno, amplissimo regiae civitatis Gedanensi Præconsuli, equiti aurato, fideliter nobis dilecto.

## CXIX.—SIR ALEXANDER HAY TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 4, [1613?]

MOSTE GRATIOUS AND DREADE SOVERAYNE,

According to directioun, immediatlye vpoun my arryvall heir, I delyuered to the tuo Archbishoppis, being together, the draught of the Confessioun of Faithe, whereanent they ar to wryite, and send vp there owne opinionis. For my owne pairte, I do skairfe think that it can be ather addit to, or altered to the bettir, haveing alreddy abidden suche a tuichestone; bot leiving the divines to there owne functioun, I wes the more vnhablle to yeild thame satisfiactioun in there doubtis, when the same wer reserved wp from me. Anent the keiping of the parliament, I haif acquaynted the archbishoppis therewith, as in lyike fort the chancellour haveing shewin no caus thereof, bot the aid of remanding, and therewith to my

Lord Chancellour only as yit, the course to be takin thereat, for some supplye to my Ladye Elizabethis mariage. In these few vnto whome it is alreddy impaired, I do find contrarye opinionis both of allowing and disproveing the holdeing of it; bot heirof your maiestie is to be certified at more lenth by nixt packett. Anent excommunicat noblemen, and the advertifment whiche fuld haife bein long since sent to your maiestie anent thame, Glasgou dothe excuise himself in so far as both these noblemen ar within St Androis his province. The other layeth the blame vpoun the bishoppis, who wer employed in that service; always he hathe vnder-takin, that if it be not alreddy done, that it salbe performed with speid. In this bufynes betuix my Lord Chamberlyne and Coldenknowes, I haif written to my Lord Fentoun at lenth all difficultyes whiche I do find therein, being afeard if I fuld haif conteyned thame in this fame lettre, and rather referring it to his discretioun, to be impaired to your maiestie at your highnes best leasure. No packett fall rwnne, bot your maiestie fall vnderstand of my dischaarge of some pairte of my laidening, vntill I do cleare myself, disburdeyned of whatever is within my instructiounis conteyned; wherein, I do humblye entreate your maiesties pardoun, if, in doing thereof, I fuld the more frequentlye wryite. And wisheing from God the daylie increafe of your maiesties health and happynes, I humblye kifs your sacred hand, and restis

Your Maiesties most humble and dewtifull  
subiect and fervant,

ALEX<sup>r</sup>. HAY.\*

Edinburgh, 4 July.

\* Sir Alexander Hay, younger son of Alexander Hay of East Kennet. On the 3d February 1610 he was admitted an Ordinary Lord of Session, in room of Lord Holyroodhouse. He was appointed Clerk Register on the 30th of July 1612, and died in 1616.

## CXX.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

FEBRUARY 10, 1614.

RIGHT TRAIST FREIND, AND WEILBELOUED COUSING,

I haue refaued yours off the 28 Jan<sup>r</sup>., quhairby I onderstand myne was cuimed to your handis off the 21, concerning Ribillis biffines,\* quhairoff I am werie glaid, specialie be that yie write to me, I fould fhoirtlie, as yie hoiped, heir off ane guid fucces in that earand. This onlye I haue to write to yow; if yie that ar daylie attendantis, domestic and hamelie with his sacred maiestie, can nocht moue his maiestie to putt that turne fummarlie and fhoirtlie to guid end, vpon sa guid and fuire groundis as I haue sett down, quhilk in my faule and conscience ar iust and equitabill, or then being sa adiured be his maiesties lettir, as I wift, I fould neiuier haue presuimed to write sa far, if yie, I say, procure nocht presentlie, ane finall determinatioun in that cause, be his maiesties awin sentence, quhilk may be a royall sentence in deid, and wordie off king Solomon, or onye wifest monarche; if the mater be putt to farder disputioun, that lordshippe will melt and vanish away; and nather fall his maiestie, nor onye other, haue eiuer honour or pleasour off the end off the befinis. This I write to yow, and wiffis yow communicat the same to Lord Fentoun, and doe the best yie may, for I can doe na mair for my pairt. Sua, nocht hauing farder bot to wifs yow all happines, restis

Yiour louing coufing alwayis at command,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 10 Feb. 1614.

I pray yow that this may present baith my bedfallowis hartlie kindnes to youris and my awin.

To my weelbeloued cofen Johne Murraye,  
of his sacred Maiesties Bedchalmer.

\* The dispute between Lord Sanquhar and the natural son of the late Lord. The King's award will be found in the Abbotsford Miscellany.

## CXXI.—SIR GIDEON MURRAY TO KING JAMES VI.

JUNE 9, 1614.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

The workis of the filwer myndis being now so far advanced that the workmen haif begunne to land fume metall, altho far inferiour to the expenes that the wndirtakaris bestow thairvpon, it is necessar your maiesteis plefour touartis the eleçtione ather of the tent part of the mettale, or the threttie part of the filwer efter it be fynned, vpon thair expenes, be knawin. Sir William Alexander\* hes a warrant to be past your maiesteis hand for this effect, and I houpe your maiestie will mak choice of your proportione efter it be fynned, becaus thair is probabilitie of greiter benefeit that way, nor be reffaving of the mettall, to be fynned at your maiesteis charges. The eleçtione beand maid, I fall do my dewtie by taking vpp your maiesteis part exactlie.

Your maiestie hes a letter sent frome the counsell, concerning fume questione that your maiesteis aduocat and myself hes with the archibischope of Santandrois, whairanent, and anent fume wther questiones of the lyk nature, it is defyred that your maiestie wald be pleasit to appoynt fume of your counsell and fessione to confider and determine : He declynes the advocat and myself as parteis. The chancour, secretar, president, clerk of the register, and geue your maiestie will be pleasit to adioyne any wtheris with thame, ar weill informed of the buffines, and so wilbe the fittest perfonas to be employed, geue so be your maiestie find it to be doune. I declyne to haif any questione with the archibischope, geue materis may be fetled in a peaceble maner, and so hes left of all perfutt of law, till your maiesteis gracious plefour be knawin heiranent. Swa, wisch-

\* The poet, created Earl of Stirling by Charles I.

ing your maieftie a lang and healthfull lyffe, with all happienes and contentment, I reft

Your facred Maiefteis moft humble  
and faithful feruand,

G. MURRAY.\*

Edinbrught, the 9th of June 1614.

To the Kingis moft facred Maieftie.

\* Sir Gideon Murray held for many years the office of Treasurer-depute of Scotland, and had the entire direction of the revenues, which he managed so well, that, besides keeping the royal residences and fortresses in excellent repair, he was enabled to defray the expenses of the King's visit in 1617. The Earl of Mar was the High Treasurer. The following verses upon Principal and Deputy are from a rare volume, entitled *The Poetical Recreations of Mr Alexander Craig of Rose-craig*, Scoto Britan. p. 25. Aberdene, printed by Edward Raban for David Melville, 1623.

Once more one poor petition I present,  
Marre not the muses, mightie Marr, I pray :  
Such as to musicke haue a mynde full bent,  
Will saue the sacred Muses from decay.  
The dittie giues the diapason grace :  
Bee friende to both ; for now fits tyme and place.

Replie to a dilatorie answer sent by Sir Gedeon [Murray] to the author:—

Your sub Receiver shew'd mee, you were sorie  
You could not so dispatch mee as you would ;  
And tolde mee on, with stambring Tongue, a storie  
Scarse vnderstood, when it was ten tymes tolde.  
This difference I put betwixt you two,  
Hee's short in Words, and you in Deedes are slow.

Notwithstanding the beneficial results of his administration of the revenues, King James listened to the accusations of the enemies of Sir Gideon, and he was sent down to Scotland for trial. This affected him so much, that he abstained from food for several days, and died on the 28th June 1621. His son and heir, Patrick, was the first Lord Elibank.

## CXXII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JUNE 30, 1614.

WEILBELOUED COUSING,

I haue refaued baith ziour lettirs off the 18 instant frome ziour good half-marrow, and off the 7 fra my Lord Sanquhair, with all the crediēt he imparted to me frome ziow, quhairoff I thank ziow hartlie; and speciallie for latting me knaw his maiesties minde towartis Francis Stewart,\* quhilk treulie relieuis me off ane greate thocht and cair; for I feared euer his maiestie micht suspect me as consentar to ane bargane likelie to goe fordwart quhither I will or nocht, quhilk I was verie far against, and wrocht be all meanis possibill to ganestand. Fra this furth, I will leiue it to Goddis will and dispositioun, and trubill me na mair thairwith; albeit in treuth I think baith parties micht doe bettir for thair awin weill. In my Lord Sanquharis affaires, be assured I fall continew as I haue begunne, and as rafoun and equitie requires. According to his maiesties command, the counfall has fend lettirs to my Lord Scone, to deliuer to his lordship the housis and stuff in St Jhonstoun. I haue na newis to impairt to ziow frome this, but sic as I am certane is writtin at lenth be my Lord Secretair. Wee heir be fuim passagers cuimed fra Orknay, that after his maiesteis shippis was by that cost, the countrie peopill upon fuim guid occasioun has tane a guid number of Inglish pirattis with fuim slaughter on ather fyde. The pirattis was in ane Dutche shippe off twa hundir tunne and aboue, latelie spoiled be thame, laedin with Inglish mennis geir frome eist countries with rye and irne; alwayis off this wee haue zit na particular certantie. Vpon fuim apeirance off fuim grudge betuix my Lord Marqueis of Hamiltoun and Lord Ogilbie and his sonne and freinds, about holding fuim courtis in August at Arbroth, the counfall, to preuent greatar harme, has bound baith parties ondir greate sounis to his maiesties peace. Wee haue heir as zit ane extraordinair cauld, wittie and windie fomer. I man be hamelie to empefsche

• Eldest son of Francis Steuart Earl of Bothwell.



ziow now in quhat was eiuver done to me before be my Lord Dumbar, butt onye fuite or troubill: He fend to me frome thence eurie zeir out off his maiesties wardroppe ane brodered poolke for carieing the greate feale, sic as my Lord Chancelar caries thair, werie magnific and honest; for that can nocht be gottin maed heir, or ellis I fould nocht trubill ziow nor nane for ane. Sence my Lord Dumbar departed this lyff, this three zeir I haue had nane, and sic as I haue, ar worne aulde and nocht sa cuimelie as neid war, quhilk I man with ziow, coufing, find meanis to gett supplied be his maiesties command out off the warderobbe, as hes bein before. Sir Alex<sup>r</sup> Hay, now Clerk of Register, then Secretair, quha was in vse to cause mak thame, fayes to me he caused, eiuver at my Lord Doumbarris directioun be his maiesties command, ane Mr Brodic in the wardrobbe mak thame, and thay war all werie fair in deid, brodered with the armis off Scotland on the first quarter and thridde, Inglish on the fecond, and Irish in the fourt; and with all ornamentis off baith kingdomes anfuirabill, as I doubt nocht but the said Mr Brodic, or fuim of his seruandis, has zit the exempill beside thame and patrone; for the last I had was in the zier 1610, fend to me be my Lord Doumbar. Tak fuim guid courfe for this as zie find best. Sua, taking my leiuue, I rest eiuver

Ziour louing coufing to serue ziow,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Halyruidhouse, laft Junij 1614.

To the right honorabill my affured good freind  
Jhone Morraye, of his sacred Maiesteis Bed-  
chalmers.

CXXIII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JULY 8, 1614.

RIGHT HONORABILL COUSING,

I haue refaued ziour kindlie lettir fra my Lord Bifchop off Glasgow, and can nocht bot thank ziow off ziour monye testimonies of

kindnes. Quhen eiuier that mater concerning the Chapell Royall fall be handled, I fall doe guid will to my powar, baith for ziour fatiffaetioun and Sir Robert Gordounis, as zie recommend to me. Ziour bedfellow is nocht zit returned to this toun, bot I haue ane great complaint to ziw off hir; for na treatie I can mak to hir, shoe will nocht tak ane chalmer heir in the kings houe, quhilk my bedfellow made readie to hir, and I think ather zie or shoe fould be als hamelie and priuat with me as with onye, and specialie in this houe. Because my Lord Fentoun is reteired to Ingilfeild for his health the tyme of this progres, zie man excuse my hame-lines to trubill ziw with my pacquettis, and to burding ziw to be cairfull my lettirs be furelie delivered.

I recommend to ziw specialie at this tyme to fie deliuered with diligence mine to my Lord Bruntland,\* Sir Robert Meluill, and to my Lady Roxbrough, my fister. As to onye sic occurrence as wee haue heir, I doubt nocht bot zie ar participant to sic as my Lord Secretair recites to his maiestie; for all is heir (praifed be God) quiet, in good iustice and obedience. Thus ending this present, wiffis ziw all weill and happines.

Ziour louing Coufing to ferue ziw,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Halyruidhoufe, 8 July 1614.

I man nocht forziett to gif ziw speciall thankis for the guid will and fauour, I onderstand of my nepuieu Sir Claud Hamiltoun, zie haue shawin to him in this befines he has had adoe.

To the right honorabill my affured good  
freind Jhone Murray, in his Maiesties  
Bedchalmer.

\* Eldest son of Sir Robert, the first Lord Melville. He was appointed an extraordinary Lord of Session, 26th February 1601, by the title of Lord Burntisland. He succeeded as second Lord Melville in 1621, and, dying without issue, 9th March 1635, the Barony, in terms of the patent, devolved on John Melville of Raith, "grandson of his uncle." See Wood's Douglas, Vol. II. p. 113.

## CXXIV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JULY 15, 1614.

WEILBELOUED COUSING,

I thank zior hartlye for zior kindlye aduertifment, conteined in zior lettir off the 4 instant, concerning the variance and rakning fallin out betuix my nepuieu, Sir Claude, and the Lord Deputie off Ireland, quhairoff I had fuim worde before be my nepuieu, and off zior guid will and affistance geuin him to mantein him, and mak him redde thairoff with his credicte, be right and trew informing his sacred maiestie, quhairin I man rackin myself zior debtour, as in meikill mair, quhairfore I fall eiuer be thankfull, albeit I be nocht in hoipe to haue occasioun to acquite onye pairt of sic obligations, bot rather to trubill zior farder.

I onderstand the Laird off Skelmuirle is returned to court. I doubt nocht bot it is to mak fuim wrang narratiues to trubill his maiestie anent the besines of Eglintoun. The last tyme he came hame, he broght ane lettir fra his sacred maiestie to my Lord Secretair, and Lord Threasaunar Depute, to trie my nepuieu, my Lord off Wentoun and me, anent some fuim promeis he alledged wee maid to him; quhairanent, in his prefence, wee gaue the saidis lordis full satisfactioun be our anfuir, quhairanent he has focht na anfuir fra the saidis lordis, bot is gone in haist thair, to mak sic informations as he may pleis. I man entreate zior be fuim guid occasioun, latt his maiestie be requiested nocht to gif him credicte in onye thing may concerne my nepuieus or me, on heiring first our felfis. I wifs also his maiestie war richt informed, or rather remembred off the mannis humour (for his maiestie knawis him weill aneuch); he is ane kittill, mutinous, and onsatled man, full of confaittis, readie to rafe and steir maa broylis his alane, nor tuentie guid and wyfe men will gett weill quenched. He and his was the first occasioun of the greate trubill fell out betuix the housis of Eglintoun and Glencairne. He was besief himself off onye to mantein the same, is zit laithest it fould fullie quenche; and gif it fould, he can nocht leue without fuim trubill and

besines to himself and others. Gif his freinds will nocht affist him to trubill sic as he callis auld ennemies, he will tak him to trubill with freinds. If he [get] guid audience and eare of his maiestie, or onye has greate crediēt thair, I warrand ziow fall mak besines aneuch, may perhappis after fasche his maiestie, and trubill his quietnes. Gif he be shorthlie fend hame to adrefs him to the ordinair cowlse off lawis, before the ordinair iudges, counfall and seffioun, his maiestie will find in that greatest ease, and is the best cowlse for iustice. If he find onye extraordinair blenk off fauour thair, as he is inclined, his maiestie will find he will raise mair sturte, and mak maa broiles, nor onye wald luik for. And this I thoct guid [to] acquēt ziow with; and pray ziow doe ziour best wee be nocht ciumbred with that mannīs importune or onrafonable fuitis. It wald seeme his maiestie fould nocht heir him off new, except he had brocht bak agane anfuir fra Lord Secretair, and Threasaurar Depute; quhilk I can nocht learne he speired eiuer for, I think, becaufe he fand thame nocht hallie anfuirabill to his humour and inclinatioun, as he imagined thay wald be.

Other occurrence I can write of nane to ziow, bot that we haue heir, all this fomer, the maist onseasonabill waddir be daylie ranis, windis, frostis, and cauld, has eiuer bein hard off in ony mannīs remembrance. Our astronmaris sayis the plannettis off this our climat aperis to be in thair conjunctiōns, oppositiōns, and sic aspectis for this zier, in als ill humour, and als far by purpoīs, as zowr lower houe has bein thair at this parliament; for be guid rason, the planettis fould aknowledge the sonne as thair lord and maister, quhome fra thay haue all thair light, and fould follow his cowlse, and gid to eurie cuntry in eurie quarter of the zeir, sic wadder as he apointis the fason. Wee man referre all to Goddis mendis, doing the best we may: Sua, I end this, and wiffis ziow all weil and contentement.

Ziour louing Coufing to ferue ziow,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Halyruidhoufe, 15 Julij 1614.

Wie man excuse me to trubill ziow with my pacquettis, fa lang as Lord Fentoun is fra court. I pray ziow direct myn to my sifter, Lady Roxbrough, and to Sir Claude, and Sir Robert Meluill. If thay be cuimed away, retorne thame abak agane be the first.

To the Right Honorabill my weilbeloued  
cousen, Jhone Morraye, of his sacred  
Majesties Bedchalmer.

## CXXV.—THE EARL MARISCHAL TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 28, 1614.

Vpoun recept of your highnes letter, daited at Whitehall, the 24 of Maij last past, as one way I wes (not without iust caus) mightely greived to consider of the hard condition which perhappis may befall to our ischew heirafter, in being bereft of the residence of there prince, whereof aduantage is taken by those who mak a craft of calumniating others, and procureing thame to be condemned vnhard; so, on the other pairt, it wes to me no small confort that I fould now liue and, Godwilling, end my dayes in the tyme of a most gracious Pharaos, who bothe knowes and will not forgett his euir deuitfull and deuoted Ioseph. By your maiesties letter I conceave some offence taiken vpoun informatioun maid be the Laird of Halkertoun, as that by me he had bene wronged. If he as a subiect had bene respectfull of his dewty to his foueraigne, and had caryed a regaird to his place when he is honored to be a feruant, no doubt he had bene more circumspect, then to haue begun the first fruitis of his attendance with delyeuerie against absentis of manifest vntreuthis. I do persuaide my self vpoun the many infinit prooffes of your maiesties fin-

ceritie, vprightnes, and indifferency to all of your subiectis, that nothing that hath bene deliuered aganis me wilbe trusted vntill it be tryed. And therefore my humble suite is, that your maiestie wilbe pleased to direct your highnes counsel heir to caus call bothe that gentleman (who is so hard ane informar) and me before them, and to confrontt ws togither, and according as they fhall try ather my misdemeanour or his misreporte, that they certifie your maiestie of the treuth, wherein I doe so farr confide in my owen innocency, that, as far as that particular, I doe not deprecatt any favour. And so, hoiping your maiestie, after the counsellis repoit, fhall judge of the pairty informer or me, according as any of ws fall be found worthye of credite, efter humble kissing your sacred hand, and praying God for your maiesties long preferuatioun, I rest

Your Maiesties most humble subiect  
and seruant,

MARSHALL.\*

Dunotter, the xxviij of Julij 1614.

To his Maiestie delyuer thais.

\* George Earl Marischal succeeded his grandfather, 7th October 1581, and died 2d April 1623. He founded the Marischal College, Aberdeen, and was a public-spirited and intelligent nobleman. He married, first, Margaret, daughter of Alexander Lord Hume, by whom he had William, his successor, and Anne, married to William Earl of Morton; second, Margaret, daughter of James Lord Ogilvie, by whom he had Sir James Keith of Benholm. The second Countess, according to the following letter from the King, does not appear in the most amiable light :—

JAMES R.

RIGHT trustie and right weilbelouit counsellour, right trustie and weilbelouit coosenis and counsellouris, and right trustie and weilbelouit counsellouris, we greet yow weel. Whereas, upon our certane knowledge of the unkynde, ingrate, and insolent behaviour of the late Erle Marschellis wyfe to hir lord and husband, who, with her sone, . . . \* the Laird Thorn-toun, and utheris, besyde other indignities, had, in a thifteous . . . bed, the said

\* These blanks are in the original, which is much destroyed.

## CXXVI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JULY 29, 1614.

RIGHT HONORABILL COUSING,

All I can write to ziou at the present is, that yifterday the counfall, be the mediatioun of fuim particulars off their number, quhome thay employed in that earand first, has fatled and fullie compofed the variance was betuix the Lordis Sanquhar and Kilmaars, and Drumlanrike and his brother ; bot nochtwithftanding thair agriand, has fyned the Laird Drum-

Erle of writtis, money, plate, furniture of . . . . . We, out of the regarde we had to the memorie of that man, who . . . . . contentment, served ws at home and abroad in greatest charges ; and . . . . . heirefter in otheris the following of so euill a precedent, wer pleasit to recommend to you that bussines : And becaus a great pairt thereof wes clandestine and night worke, wee willed yow to call before yow and examine sik persones as the Erle Marschell and our advocat suld give wp to yow : And whereas we ar informed, that, in a later letter, under our hand, we have schawin to you that it wes not oure pleasure nor meaning in ony former letteris to hurt the said Lady Marschell, or ony other persone, These ar now expreslie to mak it knawin to yow, that we nether gave direction to insert any sik clause in oure letteris, nether, at the putting of oure hand to the samen, did tak head thairto, nor never meant ony sik favour to hir, who hath so ill deserved of one, for whose sake we wer only to respect hir : And to will and requyre yow to proceid in the said action, according to the tenour of our first letteris, against all persones persewed for the saidis factis, as ye will schaw your readdines to obey our commandementis, and zeale to sie sic barbarous deides condignelie punished. Gewin at our Court of Hanwell, the tuentie twa day of August, the year of God 1<sup>m</sup> vi<sup>r</sup> and twentie foure yeiris.

To oure right trustie and right welbelovit Counsellour, Sir George Hay of Kinfawnes, oure Chancellor, and to oure right trustie and right welbelowit Cousingis and Counsellouris, and to oure trustie and welbelowit Counsellouris, Erles, Lordis, and utheris of our Priue Counsell of Scotland.

lanrike in three thousand markis, for his misbehauour in fending sic cartellis, in fear and terrour to others. Thair is also latelie cuimed heir fuim worde fra Orknay, of fuim trubill and motions rafed thair be the Earlis bastard sonne, quha has tane ane house of my lordis, and latelie has tane the kirk and stippill off Kirkoway, principall toun off that cuntrie; is followed be sax or feiue score euill peopill, uis diuers infolencis in all that boundis.\* Alwayis, Sir James Stewart is making thairaway in all diligence, with forcis sic as wee hope fall putt ordour to all wrangs thair, and punish the offendars.

The onhappie accident of Mr Francis Bothuellis slaughter,† I persuaide my self, is written to giow at lenth be others; quhairfore I take my leiuie, and wiffis giow all happines.

Giour louing Coufing to be commandit,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Halyruidhous, 29 July 1614.

To the Right Honorabill my weil-  
beloued Coufing, Jhone Mur-  
ray, in his sacred Maiesties  
Bedchalmer.

CXXVII.—[SIR LACHLAN] MACINTOSH OF DUNACHTAN TO KING JAMES VI.  
AUGUST 3, 1614.

PLEIS 3OUR MOIST SACRED MAIESTIE,

The fear off offence in presumeing to wrett haid maid me  
altogidder flent, if by my reftrent in warde, and by the vrgent neceffitie

\* See Melros Papers, Vol. i. p. 143.

† Probably the brother of John first Lord Holyroodhouse.



of my pure estait, lyklike to be vndone by the hard dealing vseit agaynis me, I wer nocht constraigned to haue recourse to your maiesties most benigne, vpricht, and iust proceidour with all your subiectis. My aduerfarie heir is verie powerfull, whairas both my moyn is mean, and my freindis verie few. If thair wer a challenge of moir fauour and respect, frome him for whois caus my foirbearis and kyn haue sustened so muche harme, it wold be perhappis accounted by him now forgetfull of sic services, to be in me a point of idilnes. Alwayis, for the present occasioun of my committing, and of my so long detentioun in ward, by the space of thir tuelf monethis past, it is of treuthe, that whill I wes minor (whiche, in some fort, is a refone for extenuating of the offence), by the advyse of sum of my evill advysed vncles, my kyne and freindis being than conveynit, it wes than concludit that thay sould enter in no actioun with ony subiect, without my knowledge and allowance, whiche wes done vpon a lyklikehood of a dew confideratioun of my awin danger, who stude ansuerabill by the statute of Parliament for my kyn. But when, vpon the Erle of Murrayis complaint of my vsurping this authoritie ower the tenentis of his landis, this wes adudgeit by the lordis of your maiesteis counfall as ane offence, and that I wes thairvpoun committed, haveing now abiddin theis tuelf monethis bypast in prisone for the same.\* In all my supplicationis for libertie, presented to the counfall, I haue no ansuer returned; bot by speciall letter frome your maiestie, my warding is commandit to be continewit untill I sould present certane persones of my kyne, particularlie nominat in that missive; whairin, howeuer, the importun sute of partie hathe perhappis procureit this directioun, zit I noway dowl, when your maiestie fall understand the treuthe, that the famin falbe spedellie recallit,

\* “Macintoshius,” according to the Latin MS. chronicle of the family, “quippe legitimus Catanei nominis Caput et Princeps, ulteriori, eorum in armis progressui restitit, Comitisque Morrauiensis apparitori, in verba minus urbana erumpenti, nonnulla inflixit verbera; qua propter et Comes Morrauiæ et Dominus Gordonus, mutua in Makintoshium conspirârunt, eumque tanquam oppressionis reum coram Dominis Secreti Consilii citarunt (donec eos, de pacato, suæ familiæ gestu, datis scilicet vadibus, certiores faceret), in arce Edinburgena incarcerationi fecerunt, ubi aliquandiu manserit. Tandem vero, sua apud Aulicos habita gratia, sine ullo adhibito fidejussore pristina restituitur libertati.” f. 260.

and my releif vpon that refone no longer ftayit: For gif 3our maiefteis counfall haue fund it ane offence, that I fould tak ony fort of commandement over my kyne and clane duelling vpon the Erle of Murrayis landis, what of refone can be pretendit to vrge me with exhibiting, or being anfuerabill for theis men nominat in that letter, who haue no duelling bot vpon the Erle of Murrayes landes, who haue reffaueit rychtis of wod-fett fra the erle himfelf of thair poffeffionis, with fpeciall clauffis irritant, incais they fould ather obey or ferve ony vther than himfelf? It being alfo of treuthe, quhilk I proteft on my confcience, that it is a mater alto-gidder impoffibill for me to performe. Bot whairas, I haue maid offer to the lordis of 3our maiefteis counfall to find fufficient cautione, under fic payneis as they pleifit, for my appeirance befor thame at all tymeis, whenfoeuer I fould be cited, as in lyk fort to be anfuerabill for all men, whome ony law or ftatute can mak me ony way bund for; and in particular, nocht to middill or vfe ony fort of commandis over ony of the Erle of Murrayis tenentis. And now, fen the Erle of Murray hes nocht onlie difpoffeit me of all my auld kyndlie rowmeis, deirlye bocht, and worthellie deferueit be my foirbearis frome his progenitouris, with the pryce of our beft bluid; and hathe in lyk fort takin fra me the bailzerie of his landis, I can nocht conceave vpon quhat refone I fould be thus deteynit in warde, haveing now in my 3oung 3eiris gevin that pruiſ of my obedience whiche I intend to continew, God willing, to my laſt breathe: and being willing to find furetie to do quhateuer the moift ſtriſt law of this kingdome can vrge, I hop 3our maieſtie will hald it vnreaſonabill I fould be burdenit with a mater impoffibill. And fen thair is non allyve that can, better than 3our maieſtie, diſtinguiſche betuix richt and wrong, I reſt affured, that vpoun the reiding of my letter, 3our hienes pleaſour falbe ſpedallie retourneit to the counfall, ſo as my lang warding hathe nocht tryit ſo greaveous to me, as the contentment I fall reſſaue of the vprichtnes of my moift gracious ſouerane, who doithe nocht ſpare to heir the complayntis of the pureſt, being at libertie bothe moir abill, and in confcience profeſſing my ſelf euer moift willing to ſuppreſ all fort of diſſobedience, and to gif pruiſ of my moift dewtifull affectioun, inferiour to no ſubieſt quhat-

foeuer, of my rank in your maieftis fervice : For whois guid eftate, and long continewance over vs, as in dewtie I am moift iuftly bund to pray, fo fall I euer remayne

Your Maieftis moft humbill and  
obedient fubiect,

MAKINTOSHIE  
of Dunachtan.\*

From your Maieftis Caftell off Edinburgh,  
this 3 Auguft 1614.

To the King his moft excellent Maieftie.

CXXVIII.—THE EARL OF ABERCORN TO JOHN MURRAY.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1614.

MOST ASSURED AND LOVING COUSING,

Thir few lynis ar only to lat zow kno that I am prefentlie going to my fchippe for Yrland, by that menis to geve his facred maieftie

\* Sir Lachlan Macintosh of Dunchattan succeeded his grandfather in 1609. In the previously mentioned chronicle of the Macintosh family, entitled, "*De Origine et Incremento Makintoshiorum, epitome*," MS. Advocates' Library, it is stated: "*Anno 1612, sibi matrimonio conjunxit Annam Grant, Domini a Grant filiam natu maximam, ex qua tres habuit filios, Gulielmum, Lauchlanum, et Æneam, et filiam unam, nomine Isabellam. Filiam etiam notham habuit, quæ, succedente nullo progeniei monumento, morti occubuit.*" He got involved in a series of disputes with Lord Gordon, which lasted till the year 1619, when, continues the chronicler, "*Dominus Gordonus et Makintoshius, nonnullis intercedentibus amicis, Edinburgi quandam amicitie inierunt speciem. Verum cum postea Dominus Gordonus, Allani Cameroni caussam, adversus Makintoshium, suscepit, durante Makintoshio, aliquæ semper inter ipsos viguere discordiæ.*"

In 1617 the honour of knighthood was conferred on him, and Sir Lachlan was appointed one of the gentlemen of the Bedchamber to Prince Charles, by whom he was much favoured, and who "made him a present of the sword he wore himself, which is still preserved in the family." Douglas' *Baronage*, p. 352. He died at Gartenbeg in Strathspey, on his return from London, on 22d June 1622, in the 29th year of his age, and was buried in the church of Petty.

contentment, quhois seruice, God willing, I fall euer prefer to any thing els in this warld: And fence, boithe by his maiesteis laft letter, and my brother Sir Claudis\* informatioun, I find fuche affurance of the continowence of his maiesteis love, I will ftryve to geve proife that the continowence of that fall be my greteft greid, not dowting quhen his maieftie fall find beft occafionis, I fall be rememberit in the number of his maiesteis moft faithfull and humble ferviteurs; for quhilk, I think never to spare nather my body nor menis, quhen it fall pleis his facred maieftie to command, altho thair be fum that waild willinglie offer to me all the difficulteis thai could, as I can not bot remember 3ow of that I wrette in my laft letter. This, moft loving coufing, with the remembrances of my moft humble dewte, I defyre 3ow to fignefie to his facred maieftie that I am gone for his fervice, and that 3ow will favour me with 3our commandementis, geve I can do 3ow any fervice in that kingdome, as I will ever reft

Your moft loving coufing,

ABERCORNE.

Southenan, the 12 of September 1614.

Loving coufing, I will pleis 3ow caufe this vther letter be delyverit to Sir James Fullerton, in diligence.†

To my moft loving coufing, Mr Jone  
Murray, one of his moft facred  
Maiesteis Bedchalmer.

\* Sir Claud Hamilton was the second son of Claud Lord Paisley, and brother to James, the first Earl of Abercorn, the writer of this letter. He obtained extensive grants of land in Ireland, and was, 6th October 1618, made constable of the Castle of Toome, in the county of Antrim, for life.

† This letter does not occur in the collection.

## CXXIX.—THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY TO JOHN MURRAY.

SEPTEMBER 17, 1614.

GOOD MR MURRAY,

I received your letter yesternight, and have thought it fitt this present day to returne you an aunswere, that it may appeere what the truthe is of the matter in question. I pray you deliver vnto his majesty the copy of the sermon which I fend heerewithall, and the letter of Mr Ball,\* the authour thereof, vnto my Lord of London, whose paines I was forced to vse in that businesse, because I was not well when the complaint was first brought vnto mee; but I tooke account of it strictly as foone as possibly I could, and if I had found the report to haue bene true, I had both acquainted his majesty therewithall, and should have bene an humble suter that some severe punishment might have bene layd vpon him, whereof not long since I gaue example in a like case yet depending, as his majesty may remember. But since I found that it was a mistaking, I hold it better to suppress all stirring in it, because I hold it not good that any such buzzes should bee putt into the heads of idle people, when there is no ground of truthe. The enormity of rogues and vagrant beggars whereof hee spake is such and so greate, that certainly it will one time or other do greate hurt in this kingdome, if it be not prevented, as yesternight diuers of vs did say at the counsell table vpon another occasion. I trust his majesty, vpon the reading of this sermon, will give some present order to that behalfe.

I fend my seruant so speedily with this letter to know whither it bee his maiesties pleasure, that now having the copy of this sermon, and finding the truthe of thinges, I should attend him at Theobalds or not, which, it seemeth by your letter, that his maiesty doth not necessarily require. But if it bee his maiesties pleasure, I will come by day or by night, through

\* Richard Ball, then holding the living of St Christopher's. His letter, dated August 29, 1614, transmitting the sermon that had excited the suspicions of the King, is amongst the Balfour Papers; but the sermon itself has not been preserved.

wett or drye, and fhall obferve this while I live, ficke or whole, according to my duty. But if I might be fpared, I defire to be at Croydon tomorrow vpon this occafion. There is an old gentleman of Surrey, called Mr Dorrel, a man of faire eftate, but himfelfe, his wife, and all his children, greate recufant Papifts; fo that one of his fonnes, for denyeing the othe of allegiance, was convicted vpon a præmunire, and lay long in Newgate, till, by his maiefties grace, at your interceffion, hee gave fome mony for compofitioun, and obtained his pardon. On Monday laft, another fonne of this old Mr Dorrells, a proper gentleman, about 24 yeeres of age, and one who hath bene at S<sup>t</sup> Omers, at Doway, and diuerfe other places in thofe partes, came vnto mee, being fomewhat prepared before by an honeft diuine; and after much conference which I had with him, was contented to heare prayers in my chappell, and afterward testified that hee very well approved the fame. I difmiffed him for that time, but tooke his promife that hee fhould bee with mee tomorrow at Croydon church, where I told him, that, God willing, hee fhould heare mee preache, and fee the reverend behaviour of our publicke congregations, which hee had never beheld in all his life. So this night I looke for him, being to come fixteene or feauenteene miles of purpofe; and tomorrow I hope publicly to engage him in an affembly of more then a thoufand perfons, which I do the rather defire to accomplifh, becaufe he telleth mee that, as the greateft part of his fathers kindred are Papifts, fo there was never any of his mothers kinne or name which were of our religion. Her father was named Gage, and indeed I know none of that name but they are Papifts; and yet there are many of them in Suffex. Now, I am glad to take this day, becaufe the next Sunday I am to waite vpon the kinge at Hampton Court, and fo forward. I forbear further to trouble you, but reft

Your very loving frende,

G. CANT.\*

Croydon, Septemb. 17, 1614.

\* George Abbot, D.D. He died at his palace at Croydon, in 1633, aged 71.

## CXXX.—THE EARL OF ABERCORN TO JOHN MURRAY.

OCTOBER 3, 1614.

## MOIST LOVING COUSING,

Having spent thir thre wekis paffit in trying and clering all maters questionabill betuixt my coufing Sir James Hamilton, and Sir Hew Mongomere, als weill in the marchis of thair landis as vtherwayis, quhairin, I thank God, I have maid ane gud progres, as I hope to bring it to ane happe end for thame boithe, and to many gentilmen of gud fashon duelling vnder thame in this kingdome, quhair thai have above 2000 habill Scottis men, weill armit heir, rady for his maiesties service, as thai fall be commandit. Thir many, I will certefe zow, I had at on dayis hunting with my felf, fence my heir cuming, quhilk, I most confes, did incourage me the les to spare my travellis to put thame and holde thame in concorde, vtherwayis foirfeing ruine to thame felfis by discord, not without greit hinderans to his maieftis service. And I beleve his maieftie, being trewle informit of my procedingis, fall think I do him no lytill service heirin; for beleve me, thir gentilmen leving in concord, as I truist now thai fall, being favored and allowit by his maieftie in gud and ciuill courfis, altho thai be mere gentilmen, his maieftie may affuredlie expect grait service of thame in this kyngdome; and besydis thame, be affurit, thair ar no corner in the northe, quhairin thair is not gud numbers of our nation: and quhat I have at Straban I will not tak notice myself, leving it to vthers. Thair is cravit throch this kyngdome, by direction frome the Lord Depute and counfall, alswell frome the vnder-takers as others, ane voluntar supple and fre gift, as thai call it, to his maieftie, quhairin, it feiris me, thai do mucche wronge his maieftie. I refavit ane letter frome Sir Tobe Cafeild for this effect, to quhom I have

anſwarit, that geve I ſould haif occaſioun to be at any publik meting for that biſſines, I waild maiſt willinglie explaine my affectioun to my gracious maiſters ſervice, hauing nothing bot that quhilk I acknawlage to be his and frome him; and to the berar of his letter and my anſwar, quhilk was Mr Hare Achefon, I ſaid vnto him, geve his maieſtie ſould have occaſioun to craue any thing of me in that faſchion in this kyngdom, I could never mak offer of les then one yeiris rent at leiſt. This I gaue out of purpois to mak vthers the moir fre, and that vtheris ſould not tak advantage of me and honeſt men of our natioun in this kyngdome, and certefe his maieſtie, as I have ſaid I have nothing in this woirld quhilk I will not be rady to lay down at his ſacred feit, and myſelf with all, to be diſpoſit vpon at his royall pleſour; and quhat I ſay for myſelf, I do in lyk fort for all thois quhome of I ſall have power and credit; and ſpecialle I geve this aſſurance for Sir James and Sir Hew, heir preſent with me. Quhairfoir, geve it pleis his maieſtie, quho, out of his grait wiſdome, conſiders the hardnes of our beginningis in this kyngdome, to deſyre quhat is ours, we deſyre to vnderſtand his ſacred maieſteis gracious pleſour, and, notwithstanding of our povertie, his maieſtie ſall haue profe of our love and radines, and that we ſall, as we ar bund of all dewte, prefer his ſtrait to our awin meſeries. Sir Hew Mongomere is in building ane fyin houſſe at the Newton, quhair of ane quarter is almoſt compleit, and Sir James Hamilton hes buildit at Killileuche ane very ſtronge caſtell; the lyk is not in the northe. Efter I haue put ane end to thair queſtionis, and cleret thair quhole marches, I purpois to go to Straban, quhilk, I think, ſall be about the 6 of this inſtant. It is thoct the parliament ſall go fordwart heir the 11 of this inſtant, befor quhilk tyme I purpoſe to haue my brother Sir Claud at Dublyn, quha now is at Straban taking ordour for his buildingis. I hope ze will acquent his ſacred maieſtie with my deſyre to know his pleſour, and in all diligence lat me be certefeit thair of, quhilk I will expect in this kyngdome befor the 24 of this inſtant. This, I truſt, ze will tak in gud pairt, as no ſervice I ſall be habill to do zow can be troubleſum to me. I wiſſe ze ſould wrete to my Lord Secretar of Scotiland to derect your anſwar in all diligence to my bedfallow at Paſſay, quha thairefter in all haift will not fail to derect the ſame to me.



Thus, my moft loving dewte rememberit to your felf and your moift woirthie lady, I reft

Your moft loving coufing,

ABERCORNE.

It may pleis zow to present my moft humble fervice to his facred maieftie.

Bangor, the 3 of October 1614.

To my moft loving Coufing, Mr Jone Murray, of his facred Maiefteis Bed-chalmer, at Court, with fpede, and in his abfence to his Lady, and Sir James Fullerton.

CXXXI.—SIR ALEXANDER HAY TO [JOHN MURRAY?]  
OCTOBER 6, [1614?]

SIR,

In this vacatioun tyme, haveing fome reafoun of more privat reteiring, inregaird of my laite vifitatioun in the loife of my bedfellow, I tooke occaſioun to review fome of the olde recordis in the Regiftre, and by collationeing of former thinges with this preſent tyme, I haif deprehen-dit my maifter to haif reſſaived a greitt prejudice; for it hathe bein evir in my tyme muche marvelled, how the landis in the weſt pairtes of this kingdome fuld haif bein ſo high retoured, and the landis in the northe pairtes, and in the choiceſt pairtes of our countrey, as Fyife and Lothi-ane, to be ſo far vndervallewit. Heirvpoun I haif begune with a ſhyire or tuo, comprolleing thereby paſt retours with the preſent, and findes the

oddes so greitt as his maiestie in tyme past hes bein very far interest in his proffeiit, for not in wairde landis only, bot in blensh also, endureing the tyme of the nonentrye, the kingis maiestie gettis the retoured dewtye yeirlye, and this is a speciall poynte wherewith the sheriffis yeirlye in the Exchecker ar burdeyned in there accomptes. Now, whereas his maiestie in tyme past for fourtie pundis hathe gottin only ten pundis, and sometymes skairfe foure pundis, this, in many small particularis, wald turne to no meane prejudice. The reafoun how this hathe befallin is cleare to haif bein done in his maiesties own minoritye, and in the best aige of his mother, of bliffed memorye; and lyike aneugh most of them haif done it of ignorance, for tuo yeiris befor Pinkye Feild, to wit, in 1545, the toun of Edinburgh wes by our neighbouris brunte, and then many menis particular evidentis, and the most part of all registeris, bot some few whiche wer in the castle, wer all confwimed; so that sensyne every man preswiming that nothing wes extant to controll them, they retoured there landis at pleafour, and so vnderualewed them as skairfe they keiped the fixt pairt of the proportioun of there former retoures. Now, my controlment fall proceide vpoun goode warrantis of there owne retouris from the tyme of Flowdoun to Pinkye. Now, as for the compassing of the busines, it hathe in itself no difficultye at all, being so cleare that no wryter boye will put questioun in it. Bot it tuiches many, and the greitt ones mooste, who, howevir they haif gottin their landis frielye of his maiesties predeceffouris, yit ar they loathe, according to our Scottishe proverbe, to give him kaile of his awne peittis, and every one tryis still to haif from the crowne, bot very few ar willing to returne any thing back to it. Alwayes, for the prosequiteing of the busynes, the more quyett the mater be kept, it wilbe the easier compassed. There neideth nather parliament, nor assamble, or conventioun of estaites. It fall not requyre recommendatioun ather to sessioun or counsell, generall or particular. Bot if his maiestie do allow that I suld proceide in it, I will break this iyce where it is thinnest, and will procwre some cleare decisiounis agans some of my owne freyndis in the northe, and so, peice and peice, bring it fordwart in severall corneris of the countrey, where there falbe leift resistance; and the greitt ones falbe then eshaimed to oppoife. I haif communicatt this ma-

ter as yit to no fleshe alывe bot vnto his maiesties advocatt, becaus I neide not the concurrence of any other at first in it ; and as his maiestye desyires any otheris to know of it, it will not be the worse to spaire it vntill the turne be ryper. As for my owne pairt, I mak no exceptioun of any persoun in this busynes ; nather do I propone to my self any project of rewairde. If the busynes do fray me weill for his maiesties proffeyt, so as his maiestie may find that I am a weillwilled dewtifull servant, I haif obteyned my intent. I haif written this particular vnto you to be impaired to his maiestie, and that I may vnderstand back againe of his maiesties pleafour whither I suld proceide or surcease. As for the reafonis wherefor I wald haif the mater somuche kept vp, no questioun the knowledge of it wilbe the crosseing of it, and heirof at some other tyme. If his maiestie so requyre it, I can give more particular remonstrance. Bot there is one thing that wald be adverted into, that when as this mater fall breake furth, it may that some propone as a grounde of a swite at courte to haif the bigones of the vndervalewing. Bot his maiestie must be pleased to reserve this to be dischairged by way of gratuitye to the whole subiectis generallye, they amending the errouris of all there retouris ; whereby his highnes fall haif his owne, and the subiectis must acknowledge to haif reffaiued very greitt favoure. Eftir you haif communicatt the mater with his maiestie vpoun the first goode occasioun, I hoipe you will certifie me of his pleafour. There is no nobleman nor gentleman in the countrey bot makis his best vse of his chartour kift ; and I think there is muche more reafoun that these who servis his maiestie suld fie and endeavour to help where the crowne hathe bein hurte. So, till nixt occasioun, I tak my leave, and restis

Youris at command,

ALEX<sup>r</sup>. HAY.\*

Edinburgh, 6 Octob. [1614?]

\* There is an admirable letter from Sir Alexander, detailing the captures of certain pirates by Macleod of the Lewis, printed in the second volume of the *Analecta Scotica*. It is there erroneously ascribed to Lord Fosterseat, a mistake arising from these persons bearing the same name, and being both Lords of Session.

## CXXXII.—THE EARL OF MAR TO JOHN MURRAY.

NOVEMBER 25, 1614.

GOOD HONEST JHONNE,

I haue vrytten this letter vnto zou in regaird of the presentt straitt thatt our freind the laird of Vachtune stands into ; for he is so huntitt be the laird of Qubitingham, as thair is no mesur in itt. Itt is a hard mater that a iustice of paice in execusion of his office being very neir mist of his lyf, and his neir freind innocentlie slain, albeit he hes committit ain error in his furie, zitt that he should be so hardlie perfeuitt. I defyr not that his maiestie should know that I deill any thing in this mater, for it may be he think that I deill only out of my particular fauor to my freind. Itt is treu I can nott deny bott I loue the laird of Vachtune, bott this I vill fay, that I vill varrand theis quha veris hagbutts shall go plain-tie aneuh in the cuntrie, from this furth, befor a iustice of pace putt to his hand to mend itt. I vill prey zou to deill be all the menis ze can to gett the day continuitt, till freindis may doe thair best to sattill itt. I heir his maiestie gatt a fyn entermiwit gofhalk from my Lord of Shreuf-berrie. I heir thee fleis the herrin. I knau thee vill not mak the king gritt plesur thair. Gif ze vill gett hir and fend hir to me, I vill think zou a good fellow. I vill fay no more, bott I prey zou remember on Vachtune. Thus I rest

Your louing goffup,

A. MARR.

Holyroudhoufs, the xxv. of Nouember 1614.

As for this mater of Vachtuns, fens the vrytting of this letter, freinds are deling in itt so as ze shall deill no thing in that mater vith his ma-

ieftie till ze heir from me againe. Now, gif ze be a good fallow, and vill fend me the auld terfell, I vill fay itt is goffups cours : gif other vays, doo quhat ze may, I knau his maieftie vill nott forgett me quhen his ramage hawks cums in.

To my very louin freind, Jhonne  
Murray, on of the Groums in his  
Maieftis Bedchallmer, gif this.

## CXXXIII.—THE EARL OF ABERCORN TO JOHN MURRAY.

DECEMBER 6, 1614.

**MOST ASSURED AND LOWEING CUSIGNE,**

I refawit your letteris befor my cuming furthe of Irelande; and in the particular, I wryte vnto you anent the voluntar contributioun there, to be given to his maieftie, I had takin that fame courfe ze did advyffe me by your lettir, as his maiefteis plesour beffoir the refait thairroff, bot I think now all fall turne to ane generall fubfidye. Thir few lynis ar onely to accompany Sir Hew Montgomerye and Sir James Hamiltounis lettiris, defyreing your freyndlie ayde and affiftance with his maieftie in their favouris, as ze wil be bettir informed of by the particular of their awin letteris, quhilk ar wryttin at large; for quhilk Sir Hew Montgomerye did defyre me to crave your pardoun for him. Also, I defyre to be certifyet by your letter giwe his maieftie be pleased to creat, at my defyre, thofe twa barrounis in Ireland, as his sacred maieftie, diverfe tymes, hes beine pleaffed to promeife vnto me, whereoff, iff fo it had pleafed God, I thocht his maieftie by ane vther fowld have beine remembered, quhilk fince it hes pleafed God to prevent by his deathe, I am conftreyned to be moir trubefome vnto you as my deir freynd; and I expect thofe twa I fould

hawe created falbe the first, whereoff, also, by my brother, I had his ma-  
iesties promise. Seiknes at the present makis me moirt schort, bot I  
fal evir rest

Your thankfull and loweing freynd  
to ferve zow,

ABERCORNE.

Edinb. the 6 of December 1614.

To my most affured and loweing cufigne,  
Mr Johne Murraye, one of his sacred  
Maiesties Bedchamber.

CXXXIV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

DECEMBER 9, 1614.

RIGHT HONORABILL AND WHEELBELOUED COUSING,

I haue nocht writtin to ziw this quhyle, because I had na  
subject off moment to impairt to ziw. At the present I haue this aduer-  
tishment to mak to ziw, to be impaired to our maist gracious fouerane.  
Sence thir rebellis off Yla, besidis the inuading and possessing thame  
felfis with his maiesties house of Duniwayge, presumed also maist trafon-  
able to tak the Bischope off the Iles fonne, and the Laird of Ranfurlie\*  
his cheiff, to be as pledgis to thame, to haue quhat condicions thay  
pleased require; onderstanding weill his majesties royall minde nocht  
habill to condescend to entir in onye condicions with sic peopill, and  
knowing also weill his heighnes forcis our sufficient to dantoun all the  
pride off sic barbarous limmers, as his maiestie had fend his directions,  
quhilk are still going fordwart, sufficient to bring all thair to his will.  
Confidering, neuiertheless, still that the parrell off these gentilmen, al-

\* Knox—his descendants settled in Ireland; and the present representative of the family is the  
Earl of Ranfurlye of that kingdom, and Lord Northland in England.

beit, too rakleffie caffin in that danger, could nocht be bot werye onpleasand to his gracious maiestie; as it wald alfo haue tuiched this haill eftaitt, and us all in honour, if thay had gottin onye fkaith, I was maift cairfull for thair releiff, and thairfore fand out ane man off my awin, quha had guid Irish, and on his ondertaking, upon fuim auld acquentance he had with Angus Ogg Mc'Donald, quha is the cheiff off all thir outlawis, that he thocht he wald be habill to perfuade him to deliuer to me the said gentilmen free, I directed him about the beginning off Nouember to goe thair: gaue him na write off mine with him, nor powar to gif these men onye promise frome me off onye particular condicion, bot gif he could on guid rafons, and apeirance of guid generallis, alluire thame to the deliurie and freedome of the gentilmen, I promist to himself honest rewarde off his maiestie. He went thair with greate difficulties off wadder and otherways, and in end and conclusioun, dealt fa with these rebellis, as he has brocht hame frie the twa gentilmen (quhairoff I thank God), butt onye promise or condicioun. Farder, thay fend to me with him the keyis of the house, with this worde, thay will be content to deliuer the house to onye I fall pleis fend thair to reffaue and keip it, with onye companie thairfore, on this onlye desirie of thairis, that thay may haue frie libertie to haue accefs, ather to his maiestie or to his counfall, to declair thair awin pairtis; and quhou thay ar fallin or casin in this troubill, thay say thair fould be found leitill falt in thame, and mair in others. The confideratioun off this I remitt to his sacred maiesties royall wifdome. I will nocht meddill in the like off that, but speciall warrand and directioun. His maiestie knawis I professed eiuer ignorance in all Irifche cabale.

I hoipe his maiestie will think thir gentilmennis releiff guid seruice. The bischioppes sonne has said to me, thay bosted thame eiuer, gif onye feige came frome his maiestie to that house, thay fould be fett out our the wals to kep the first shoittis. The gentilman quha has bein my moyenner and doar of this seruice, is ane Rofs man, called George Grahame.\* I promist to him, gif he fould bring me hame the prissonars,

\* The Chancellor got into a scrape by dealing with this man, who, if we may believe his Lordship, exceeded the powers entrusted to him. See Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 200—209.

as he has done, for his chargis and recompense at leift ane thousand markis Scottis, and quhat farder rewairde fould pleis his maiestie allow on him. I will nocht brake my condition with him, bot fall satisfie him before this be at ziow, and fendis ziow thairfore heirwith ane precept to be signed be his maiesties most gracious hand, to command the threfaurar depute heir to rander me that meikill filuer. Nane will think it eiwill bestowed. Or the men had nocht bein releued, for his maiesties and estaitis entres and honour, I wald rather haue parelled the losf off ten thousand off my awin. His maiestie may remembir, to sic priuie moyen- nis, for small sounis I had Jhone Dow M<sup>c</sup>Alaster, the greateft limmer, and brokin man in all the North, and his brother baith putt out: the ane execute in this toun, the other with twa of his marrowis brunt in ane houe, becaufe they wald nocht rander. For this I gaue three thousand mark. Ane other M<sup>c</sup>Gillieworike, I had broght into this toun, and execute, ane stark theiff and captane off theifis, a Barrabbas insignis latro, [who] trubled all the Cabroch and Braa of Mar: for him I gaue ane thousand mark. Quhilk sounes, be his maiesties command, was remburfed to me be my Lord Dumbar, and Sir Jhone Arnott; like as I haue his ma- iesties generall command to threafauraris to deburse at my desire, onye sic sounis upon sic occasions; bot I think meiteft [to] haue his maiesties speciall allowance for the seruice in eurie particular. I will omitt na thing may ly in my power or capacitie to doe his maiestie guid seruice. All this I remitt to the imparting to his sacred maiestie, at guid tyme and opportunitie. God preferue his maiestie. Sua, wiffing ziow all weill, reftis

Your maist affectionat Coufing to be  
commandit,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 9 Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1614.

Thair is latelie cuimed to this toun, fuim worde of fuim late slaughter



committed in the Iles, in the Ile of Jura, on his maiesties guid subiectis, the particularis quhairoff I remitt to my Lord Secretairis and Sir Gedeonis relatioun, for thay ar mair particularlie aduertit off the fame.

CXXXV.—REASONS FOR THE BURROWS OF SCOTLAND IN SUPPORT OF  
THEIR FREIGHTS OF FOREIGN SHIPS.

JANUARY [1615?]

REASONS for the Burrowis of the Kyngdome of Scotland, quhairfoir thair libertie aucht not to be restrayned in the frauchting of forraine fchippis and boddomis for transporting of thair guidis to and fra the said kyngdome.\*

First, Thay protest, as nature and dewtie bindis thame, that they ar moft willing to prefer thair awin countriemen and fchipping to any strangeris in the warld in the caice forsaid, yea, ewin with evident and feine los of thair awin accordis; bot if this proceid fra ony constitutioune, or publiet restraint, or prohibitioune, to be maid be his maiestie, they fear it fall produce fuche dangerous effectis, as may evert and overthrow thair haill seafairing tred and fchipping for ewer.

Becaus that president and example, the kynges and prynces of vther kyngdomes no doubt wilbe inducit, for the benefeit of thair awin subiectis, to mak the lyik constitutionis within thair dominiounis; and if so be thair is nathing to be expected but decay and wrack to our fchipping, infamikle as the greittest number of the best fchippis of Scotland ar continuallie employed in the seruice of Frenschemen, not onlie within the dominionis of France, bot also within the boundis of Spayne, Italie, and Barbarie, quhair thair tred lyis, quhilk is ane cheiff caus of the incres of the number of Scottis fchippis and of thair maintenance: quhairas be the

\* See Balfour Annals, vol. ii. p. 57, 58; and Melros Papers.

contrairie, the half of the number of schippis quhilkis ar presentlie in Scotland, will serue for our awin priuat tred and negotiatioune, if we haid not this benefeit and commoditie of ftrangeris.

This is nocht to be esteimed ane naiked presumptione vpone our pairt, becaus we haue alreddye found the practize thair of in France, in sa mikle as vpone informatione gewin to the Kyng of France and his maiesties counsell thair, that this publiēt prohibitioune of the frauchting of schippis belonging to ftrangeris in England or vther pairtis, they haue beine pleased to mak the lyik prohibitioune within the dominiounis of France; quhilk taking executioun laitlie in Normandie againis ane Inglish schip, and ane vther Dutche schip, quhilkis being laidned with Frensch commodities, the maisteris and marineris thair of wer compellit to disburden the same of the saidis commodities, and retorne toome and emptie to thair awin cuntries. So also the lyik wes intendit; becaus ane Scottis bark perteyning to Andro Allane, quhilk that same tyme wes also laidned with Frensch merchandice, and no doubt wald haue beine practized againis thame, hed not the maisteris and marineris of the said bark pretendit greitter immunitie be the ancient alliance and leagues maid betuix the kyngdomes of France and Scotland nor vther ftrangeris; and that they wer compellit to alledge that thair wes no restraint maid in Scotland of any libertie quhilk Frenschmen haid ewer injoyed thair before, and to find cautioune to report ane autentick testimoniall thair-vpone from Scotland, as may appeir both be the proces quhilk wes deducit at Rowane heirvpone, and by the lettres of the Scottis factouris sent heir to the proveit of Edinburgh, testifieing the premisses to be of veritie; swa that if this publiēt restraint and prohibitioune haue place heir in Scotland, we neid not to luke for any tred in France, without quhilk nather can our schipping nor tred of merchandice stand, bot all will turne to ane pitifull wrack and confusioune, for we ar not in sic caice heir in Scotland as the subiectis of vther kingdomes, quhairin thair is continuall intercourse and commoditie by resort of ftrangeris, by quhome thair welth and estait growis; and thair is no ftrangeris that repairs to this kyngdome, except sic as importis tymber and vther gros merchandice of small woorth.

Secundlie, If our libertie in frauchting of strangeris schippis heir in Scotland be restrained, we wilbe compellit to leave our tred of heringis, quhilk we transport to the eist countries, because the best occasioun of the transport thair of is offred onlie in the monethis of September and October, in the quhilk seasoun we haue the commoditie of sum Dutche schippis heir, quha hes imported tymber within this realme, and wilbe content to transport our guidis for the thrid of the fraucht quhilk Scottis schippis may serue for; becaus, if they want this imployment, they will returne emptie; and the awneris of Scottis schippis can not undertak thir voyages bot vpon greit and exorbitant frauchts, feing they wilbe constrayned to ly the maist pairt of the wynter seasoun in the eist countries, be seasoun of the frostis incloseing thame thair. If thir frauchtis wer gewin by merchandis, they wald report no gayne nor commoditie by that tred, and so must leave the same, to the hurt and prejudice of the whole kyngdom.

It is also to be confidderit that Scottis schippis can not convenientlie serue for the importing of waynscott, knaphult, tar, and vther gros waires within this kingdome, becaus they ar nocht able to serue vpon so easie conditiounis as Dutche schippis, quha ar seruit by thrie or four marineris at the maist; and if greit frauchtis were giuen for such wares, all the wairis aboue writtin culd scarslie be fald for dowble pryce, quhilk wald turne to the hurt of the haill kyngdome.

CXXXVI.—SIR R. MACLEOD TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 7, 1615.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOVERANE,

Since it hes bene the goode pleafour of God, by your maiesteis most prudent and happie government, and to your maiesteis immortall prais and commendatioun, with the exceeding grit confort of all your faithfull subiectis, to blis this your maiesteis kingdome with ane

vniverfall peace and quietnes, throughout all the nukis and cornaris thairof, especiallie in the Yllis and Heylandis; fwa, that now, the hoip and expectatioune of iustice makis all men to seik redres of these wrangis, quhairin thir mony yeiris bygane, through the iniquitie of the tyme, thay haif bene flent. So it is, that I and my prediceffouris, being heretable tenentis to your maiestie and your prediceffouris of the landis of Slait, North Vft, and vtheris landis lyand in the North Yllis, quhairin we war heretable infest be your maiesteis worthie goodfir of famous memorie efter his perfyte aige, the Clandonald, quho, efter the daith of your maiesteis said goodfir, wer of gritest power, force, and freindschip in the Yllis, did most violentlie detrude my forbearis furth of oure saidis landis with grit slauchter of diuerse of thame, especiallie of my father, brothir, and vther kynnismen, and by fyre and fuord mantenit thair violent possessioune aganis my forbearis and myself fenfyne; and I having now enterit myself as air to my father brethir in the saidis landis, and being infest and seasit thairintill, and your maiestie being lykewayis gratiousslie pleasit at my laite being with your maiestie, to dispone vnto me the nonentrie of the saidis landis, I hawe thairvpone intentit actioun befor your maiesteis fessioune, for recoverie of my possessioune and richt of the saidis landis; in the quhilk actioun, I am lyke to sustene some preiudice by the practeizeis and dealing of my aduerfair partie, Donald Gorme of Slaitt, quho taking hald of that act of parliament, quhairby the inhabitantis of the Yllis war ordaneit to exhibeit and produce thair infestmentis befor your maiesteis chekker, to the effect the tenour and conditiounes thairof nicht haue bene knawin to thame, the said Donald, vpone my alledgit failzie in that poynt of the exhibitoun of my infestmentis allenerlie, intendis to furneis actioun and pley aganis me, and vpone that onlie caus to detene and withhald fra me my lauchfull heretage. Althocht it be of trowth that I and all my prediceffouris haif euir constantlie profest your maiesteis obedience, and did nevir kyth in counfall, actioun, or hostilitie with ony of the rebellis of the Yllis aganis your maiestie, lykas, I myself, in the fourscoir sextene zeir of God, gaif my compeirance befor your maiesteis counfall, and at that tyme fand cautioun for my conformitie in all tymes thairefter; and I, thairvpone, simplie apprehending that the said act of

parliament could nawayis stryke aganis me, quho wes a lauthfull subiect, bot that the samene wes maid and devyfit aganis the rebellis and brokin men of the Yllis, in the quhilk nomber I diddanit to rank myself, I ignorantlie, and not vpon contempt, failled in that poynt of the produccioun of my infeftmentes, quhilkis I could not produce the tyme of the making of the said act, in respect the said Donald Gorhame stude than infeft in the saidis landis, haldin of your maiestie, and continowit in the violent possessioun of the samene, lyk as he zit does; and I am bot laitlie prouet and retourit air to my said father brether in the saidis landis, quhairin I am certane that it is not your maiesties meaning, that any advantage fall be tane of me, bot that I fall haif iustice aganis the said Donald notwithstanding thair of, or of my obiectioun that can be moved aganis me thairvpon, the said act of parliament being onlie maid to draw brokin flisemen to obedience, and not to snair simple, ignorant, and lauthfull subiectis. In consideratioun quhair of, I am bauld in all submissioun and reverence to haue my recours vnto your sacred maiestie, as the fontane fra quhome all your distreft subiectis ressaues confort, and in all humilitie to besek your maiestie to wryte in my favouris to your maiesties sessioun, willing thame to proceid and minister iustice vnto me aganis the said Donald and vtheris, violent possessouris of my landis and heretage, notwithstanding of the said act of parliament, and the not produccioun of my infeftmentis, or ony thing that may result or follow thairvpon. And so, crawling pardone for this my presumptioun, humbly praying God lang to preserve your maiestie in your blissit government, that we your poore subiectis may, in tyme of our distresse, hawe our recourse to your maiestie, I rest

Your most humble and obedient  
servitour,

S<sup>r</sup>. R. MACLEOD.

Edinburgh, 7 Januarij 1615.

To the Kingis Maiestie.

## CXXXVII.—JOHN CARSE TO THE BISHOP OF ROSS.\*

JANUARY 10, [1615 ?]

MY LORD,

I receaved your lordschippis letter yesternight. Master Geddie has vndertook the safe conveyance of this. This day I am glad of your lordships counsell; and as it may concern me, I wil ply my endeavors to practeis. Benedicat Dominus! Your lordschipp desyres to know the challenge and challengers; my Lord of Brichen† will be pleased, I hope, when he cums, to clear that poynt. They who pressed me with it sayd that the vniverfall consent of great men had caryed it as high as his majesties eare in such termes. Libera nos Domine! For your part of the character and min, as I am your lordschippis vnworthy fervant, as thear was a tang in it, I may chance serve to tell them, in min owin name, as I haue don in yours. Noli me tangere!

My Lord, I rejoyse, as I schould, aboue expreffion, to hear of my Lord Elect of Dumblane‡ his health and good proceedings, hic labor hoc opus est. God enable me to proue a thankfull fervant to my Lord St Andrewes for his favor. I shall be glad to serve in the meanest of his commandements hear; and to your lordschipp I have still communicated my self, as to min own soul. Proba me!

I haue not been so weak as to stumble at your lordschippis silence; if I had not known, vnder your hand, the cause, I schould haue beleueed as much as I know. My hart ryfes at the newes of a ryfeing cathedral at

\* Patrick Lindesay, minister at St Vigeans, was advanced to the see of Ross, 27th October 1613. In 1633 he was translated to Glasgow.

† Andrew Lamb, minister at Burntisland, succeeded to this see in 1606, and retained it till 1619, when he was translated to Galloway.

‡ Adam Bellenden, rector of Falkirk, who, upon the translation of Graham, Bishop of Dunkeld, to Orkney, in 1614, was preferred to the vacant bishoprick.

Roffe, in the words of the Pfalmist, "The glorious majestie of the Lord our God be vpon it; prosper the worke, O, prosper it."

The Liturgy, ann. 2, regni Ed. 6, which with much adoe I gott, I leaft it with my curate at Brixton. He wold needs copy out what he could not find elfquher. I haue fent for it by the caryer; when it cums to me it fchall be forthwith fent to your lordfchipp.

I am fo confident of what concerns me with your lordfchipp, foe farr as you haue intereft in it, that I fchall never further examyn it, no not in a thoght, whether time wil work it pro or con; but vpon fuch a threatening as I had then, and a tryal of my patience fince, about Patney (in fuch a manner as I haue layed open to my Lord Dumblane in his letter), I fhould haue held myfelf vnworthy of fuch freinds as both your lordfchippes have fchowed your felfes to me, if I had not, as a gratefull fervant, acknowledged the honor of your noble motions, by layeing my felf in all duty and fervice, at the feet of our Holy Mother, the Church of Scotland, to be difpofed by her as fche fchall think fitt.

I directed a packett to my Lord of Galloway\* vpon Chryftmasday. I hope his lordfchipp has receaved it. I præfume thear wer letters in it which concerned my betters, to which I was only Tabellarius. My Lord, forgive me, and ftill bliffe me by your letters and commandements.

Your Lordfchippes (very) faythfull fervant and cofen,

JOHN CARSE.†

London, 10 Jan. [1615?]

To the Right Reuerend Father in God,  
my much honored Lord, the Lord  
Bifchopp of Roffe.

\* William Couper, born 1566, and died 15th February 1619. A prelate of great worth and extensive learning. His works were printed at London, in folio, 1629.

† Communicated by Mr David Laing.

## CXXXVIII.—SIR HUGH MONTGOMERY TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 10, [1615?]

SIR,

Remembering me of our zifterdayis conferance conferneing that lettir his maiestie refawit fre Sir James Hammiltowne, and of his maieftieis spich to zow abut the estatiss of sic as had planttit with me in the cwntr, bethinking me of them, I am not a lytill amaffit quhat thay fould mein; for that as conferneing the erillis decreit, I am perfuadit that thaer is non gifin out as zeit, or otheirvayis I hawe refaivit mor wrong nor I am perfuadit so nobill an erill, and so respectif of his awin honnour and credeit, will dow. My refownis ar, Firft, For that thair vas a lettir of his lordschipp directit to the Lord Depute for the resolutiowne of the mane and materiall pvnt, quharvpon all our questiowne and debat ftude, I had the karieing thaerof, and it was to be delyvirit to the Depute in both our presentis, and we both war to hawe had the resolutiowne. This I did in the cownfall chalmour. I attendit and followit alwayis in Sir Jamefis present, and at the cownfall tabill, quhan, as the jugis war present quha war to refolf our dowl, knawing that, “*veritas non quereret angwlos*,” quhilk Sir Jamis so opposit with his accustomat scheiftis that for tow holl termis togethir, quhairby it cost me 300<sup>lb</sup>, I could hef no resolutiowne nor meitting; and now (in my absant) to hawe ather preffit a resolutiowne, or to hawe gifin out a decreit wpon a resolutiowne grundeit vpon Sir Jamefis forgerie at his awin post, in my absant, and that flat contrarej to his lordschippis derectiowne and lettir to that effect, I newir being so mvch as callit to hear of it, I am perfuadit that no fuche decreit will profeid from his lordschipp, or that ther is annay gifin out as zet at all.

And, lastly, If thair had annay fuche resolutiowne com, zitt was I to haw bein aduertiffit thaerof, that if I had had annay thing to say for my self, I micht haue had place to say it, and thaerefter his lordschipp micht



hawe determeined with a full refolutiowne quhat to hawe downe. Bot in fo greit a matter, and vpon a refolutiowne refawit fre Sir Jamis of his awin haching, and nothing thaerof signefeit to me, I belef that it will be thocht a harde deilling, for that wpon tways als good grwndis the erill micht hawe profideit in my fawouris, quharas I brocht his lordfchip the trew estat of our caus, drawin wp in a moft formmall and vnevitabill kace in law, refolfit and fet ondir thre of the beft laweiris handis in Dwblin, to wit, Mr Boltowne, Sir Jhone Everot, and Mr William Tabart; the quhilk kace and refolutiowne will alfo hauld good heir amongift the beft laweiris in England, bot I was fatiffeit that his lordfchip fould do nothing wpon annay privat refolutiowne; and quhatfoevir I hawe downe is by the erillis confent and liberte, zit extant ondir his hand; quharonto thaer is no conditiowne annexit to aduertis his lordfchip affor I dow it; or not to profeid without his lordfchip prewac, and all that I hawe downe I am inforffit to do as he is (that the dewill drayfis), for that Sir James liefing fo inderectly and onconfionabilly profideit in that buffines, both agentf his maieftie and me, that I could hef no fekuirate bot from his maieftie, and that not to fuch tym as the defait and wrong down to his maieftie was firft knawin and redreffit; and that I being his maiefteis fuorne fervant, and thaereftir a fvorne covnfallour, at both wich tymys I was bwin, by them othis I tuke, to withftand and reveill quhatfomevir hurte I knew to be downe or profideing agentf his maiefteis perfwon, pofteritie, crown, or eftait: And now that how fone I cam to the knowlag of Sir James profideingis, if I wald hef combeinit with him or confpayrit agentf his maieftie, and hef mad wfe of that benefeit, that by the outvart face of the law, I micht hawe takin by wertew of that lettir that I hawe ondir his maiefteis hande, for the paffing of my estat, togethir with all that I bocht from Con, or hes richt vnto, than am I effuirit that my lord, that is not onle his maiefteis fuirne cwnfallour tuays, bot hes alfo refawit fo greit honnour and benefeit from his maieftie, wald hawe thocht me onvurthy of lyif, and wald hawe proplemit me for fuche a on; nathir wald his lordfchip evir hef allegit or brocht furth this decreit to hef fconddeit me with, fo as quhat I hef downe I hawe his lordfchips allowanc, and that wpon fo good grwndis, and eftir fuch a maneir profideit vnto, as that

I to my jugment prefomis that his lordſchip will nathir pris to blame me, nor do me wrong thaerfor.

Now, Sir, for the ſecownd part of his maieſties propoſitiowne, concern- ing the paſſing of my eſtat to me, it being now fwnde woyd, that I wald happely wrong ſuch tennantis as ar com to inhabit with me, and I hef fet richtis vnto, I am ſoure his maieſtie ſuld ſo conſawe of me quho hes bein ewir funde willing and faithfull to ſerf his maieſtie, and that to the wttir- moſt that my perſowne, puer, or credet, could ſtrich onto; nathir hes his maieſtie evir harde of my onfathfull cairiag to annay man. All that I feik almoſt I hef it alrede ondir his maieſteis hand and ſignat, giſin at Barar Caſtall, the 7 of Auguſt, and the 12 of his maieſteis renge (and if I ſevt now annay forder it fall not be without good conſideratiowne), quhairin my honneſt meneing apeiris ſuffitiantly, for that in that letter it is expreſſit, that for the ſtraynthining of my tytill, and the ſettilling of thoſ gentilmen and otheir inhabitantis that I haw plantit thaer, his maieſtie is pliffit that a grant or grantis ſould be mad onto me, &c.; and this his maieſteis grant onto me, with a conſideratioune expreſſit in my petitiowne, is onle to be wrayttin owir agen onto me in ſuche form as, the deſat down onto his maieſtie being mad kleir, this lettir may be ſo frameit, that my eſtat that ſuld pas theropon ſould be good in law. I feik not to pas this in the perſowne of my ſone or ſom othir, quharby to de- frad annay manis eſtat, bot in my awin, quha am bwnd to mak all thaer eſtatis good. Now, the grant being in my awin perſowne, ze know that altho I wald be afronttit, I can not go agenſt my awin deid, quhilk is to mak them eſtatis; quharfor, this miſtruſt that is had of me, with all re- verenc I ſpik it, will be thocht ane evill revarde for my ſerweic; and eſpecially, quhairas I am com heir to attend and conſinne my ſelf onle to his maieſteis ſervic, quharas for a fiſte or a threikor of pundis, I could hef ſtayit at hom and had my lettir ſo renewit, for that it was his maieſ- teis pleaſour that I ſould be mad ſewr, as it micht hef bein mad good in law; quhar as, now, 1400lb. will not karie me hom agen, to my greit owirthrow, and the hinder of his maieſteis moſt neſſifarej ſerveic intendit by me, if that his maieſtie, out of his maieſteis princly and accuſtomat bontefull conſideratiowne, help me not, that to this hour, notwithstanding

of my gritt burdeingis, hes nather focht help, nor put his maieftie to a pennej chargis. And this far, Sir, I thocht good to wrayt onto zow, rathir nor to fach zow with long and oftin troubelfom fpichis, intretting zow to further my difpache, that my petitiowne being harde and exameneit, I may be put to that punt, that his maieftie, in his moft royall fawour and bonte, fall think feit : And thus, intretting zour patiencc, I am

Ʒour Lordſchips ewir for his awin meine,

HUGH MONTGOMERY.\*

In haift, this 25 Janvarej.

To his honnorabill and his aprowed  
good freinde, Mr Johne Mvrray, Gen-  
tilman of his Maiefteis Prewej Purce  
of Bedchalmour, gif theis.

\* Sixth Laird of Braidstane. He was a descendant from the ancient stock of the Montgomeries, and was born about the year 1560. He was educated at Glasgow, and thereafter went to France, after which he settled in Hollaod, and obtained a captain's commission in a Scots regiment under the Prince of Orange. Upon the accession of James VI. to the crown of England, he was taken into favour, and obtained a grant from Con O'Neale, Lord of the Claneboyes, in the following manner:—This Irish chieftain, indulging with his friends and followers at Castlereagh, in a "grand debauch," as Lodge terms it (vol. i. p. 358, edit. 1754), speedily got rid of all the wine; and being desirous of procuring more, they sent their servants to Belfast for a fresh supply, when they contrived to quarrel with the garrison there, and returned to their masters after receiving a tolerably severe drubbing, and without any wine. Con, exasperated, not so much at the discomfiture of his men, as at their not procuring wine, reproached them bitterly, and as their number doubled that of their antagonists, swore "by his father's and all his noble ancestors' souls," none should serve him or his friends if they went not back and revenged the affront put upon him and them by those "*few Boddagh Sassenagh* soldiers," as he termed them. They accordingly vowed to execute their revenge; and proceeding to Belfast, assaulted the garrison, and killed one of the soldiers; but were at length beaten off and pursued, several of their number being killed and wounded. For this outrage Con and his adherents were found guilty, by a Committee of Enquiry, of levying war against the crown, and he was committed to prison. This happened a few months before the death of Queen Elizabeth.

Montgomery thought he could turn O'Neale's imprisonment to advantage, and resolved on a rescue. This he successfully accomplished; and contrived to get Con on board a trading vessel, in which he arrived with him safely at Largs, from whence he conducted him to Braidstane, where he was treated with great kindness. He then told his visitor, if he would divide his estate with him, that he would procure the king's pardon, who by this time had succeeded to the crown of England. Poor Con had no alternative. It was a sad thing to lose half his lands, but sadder still to lose his life; so, with bitter curses upon himself for his drunken frolic, he complied with the demand; and Montgomery and his victim proceeded to London, where

## CXXXIX.—NOTE OF PROCEEDINGS OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

JANUARY 24, 1615.

THAT letter fend downe frome his maieftie, with the petition enclosed therein anent the bushes fisheing, wes this day presented and geven in to the counfall; which beeng oppened and redde in there audience, thay do werrye well allow of the enterpryse, and fo far as in them lyes, will hold hand to encourage the enterpryfares and vndertakares to prosequute and follow oute that trade. But becaus the question anent the teynd, which is the cheefe poynte whereon the enterpryfares doeth now stand, can not be fetled bot in prefence of the pairtyes haveing entereffe, therefore the bishope of Sanctandrois, Abirdeine, and Orknay, the Chalmerlane and customares of Orknay, the ministeres of Pittenweyne, Anstruther, and Carraill, who ar the speciall pairtyes who clames enteres to this teynd, ar ordained to be warned to compeere befoir the counfall, vpoun the xiiij<sup>th</sup> day of Februarij nixt, to answere to this mater, and to see suche good course taken therein, as shalbe thoght expedyent; at which tyme the counfall will omitt no good duetye wherby this trade may be forthered and advanced.

The differrence betweene the Lord of Scone and Andro Henderfone, beeng submitted in prefence of the counfall to the Bishopes of Dunkeld and Dunblane, the Lardes of Pitcur and Ballmanno, and the Goodeman

a pardon was obtained; but the division was not ratified in the manner Montgomery expected; for Sir James Fullerton, a needy courtier, contrived, no doubt for a proper consideration, to introduce Mr James Hamilton (Viscount Clandeboye, 1622) as a third party to the contract, and obtained the king's sanction to this arrangement, some particulars as to which, and as to the disputes with Hamilton, will be found in the *Abbotsford Miscellany*.

Notwithstanding this tripartite division, the estate acquired by Montgomery was sufficiently extensive; and he proceeded to "plant" it with English and Scottish Protestants. He was made a free denizen of Ireland in 1605, in which year he was knighted. On 3d May 1622 he was created Viscount Montgomery of the Great Ardes, and died at Newtown-house, on the 25th of May 1636. From him the Montgomeries, Earls of Mount-Alexander (now extinct in the male line), were descended. Notwithstanding this curtailment of his estates, Con O'Neale is said to have ever lived in strict friendship with Montgomery, and to have been deeply affected by his death.

of Balgowne, and they haveing had dyuerse tryestes and meetinges vpon that submiſſion, thay ſuffered the ſame in end to deſerte, without pronouncing of any decreite or ſentence therein ; whereof enformation beeng made to the counfall, and thay being deſyreous to vnderſtand vpon whoſe default and occaſion the ſubmiſſion deſerted, thay cauſed charge both the pairtyes and arbitouris to compeere before thame for that effect this preſent day : And thay compeering, and at length hard, it wes funden by reporte of the commonares, that after dew examination of all accomptes betweene the pairtyes, that Andro Henderſone wes reſtan great ſowmes of money to the ſade lord, which he wes not hable to pay, and whiche the lord wes verrie onwilling to diſcharge and quyte : And the commonares feareing Henderſones exclamationes and outcryes, yf thay decerned him to pay thoſe reſtes, and beeng loath to offend the Lord of Scone, by decerning him to quyte the ſame, thay therefor ſuffered the ſubmiſſion to deſert. The counfall haveing at length hard thame heerevpon, and beeng loath that thir jares ſhould ſtill continew betweene the pairtyes, and that his maieſtie ſhould be of new importuned by Andro Henderſone, or his wyff, thay therefor delt with the ſaid lord and Andro, that thay wold ſubmitt thame ſelues of new to the counfall, according to the tennour of the firſt ſubmiſſion. The Lord of Scone made deficulyte to ſubmitt according to the firſt ſubmiſſion, vnles the penſioun of v<sup>e</sup> merkes, which Henderſone hes out of the lordſhipe of Scone, wer lykwyſe ſubmitted, to the effect that thereby all occaſion of queſtion betweene thame heirafter might be removed, and that he might haue no forder doing nor medling with him. This beeng imparted to Andro, he freelye yeelded to ſubmitt his penſion in lyk maner ; wherevpon the counfall, without ony forder delay, gave furth there decrete and ſentence betweene thame, decerning ather of thame to quyte and diſcharge otheres of all comptes, reſtes, rekinninges, and ſowmes of money, that ather of thame can lay to the charge of otheres, for whatſomevir caus or occaſion bygane, preceeding the date thereof ; excepting allwayes the ſowme of two thouſand merkes, as a pairte of that ſowme which wes funden by the firſt commonares to be reſtan by the ſade Andro ; which ſowme of two thouſand merkes the counfall hes thocht meete to hald aboute the ſaid Androes head, as ane

awband to keepe him in quyetnes and ordour, and to restreane his diftempered and vnreulie speatches: And thay haue ordained the faide lord onnowyse to crave payment of the fade fowme, vnles the faid Andro, by his misbehaviour, give iust caus to the faid lord to crave the same (the misbehaviour beeng alwyse first tryed, and declaratour geuen therevpon by the counfall): And whereas in the accomptes made by the fade Andro of his intromission with the fade lordes leveing, he hes geuen vp findrie restes whereof he alleadges he gatt no payment, the counfall hes ordained him to warrand thir restes frome his owne deede allanerlye. They haue also decerned the faid Andro to renunce and discharge his pension of v<sup>c</sup> merkes, which he hes oute of the abbay of Scone, in favoures of the fade lord, for the which they haue decerned the fade lord to mak payment to the faide Andro, in satisfaction of his fade pension, both for bygaines and in all tyme cuming, of the fowme of two thousand merkes, within eight dayes after Whitfunday nixt; with this prouiso, yf he mak payment of the fowme of ane thousand pundes, preceisslie at the terme of Witsonday, that he shalbe free of the fowme of two thousand merkes.

Andro Henderfone, by his petition geuen in to the counfall, complained havelie of his confyneing, and of the harme and preiudice which he susteanes thorough that occasion; and his desyre wes to be fred and releved. Becaus the derrection for his confyneing proceedit from his maiestie, the counfall wold do no thing without his maiesties allowance.

CXL.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 28, 1615.

RICHT HONORABILL COUSING,

I haue na farder occasion to write to ziow at the present, bot to accompanie this berar, with quhais earand heir, I doubt nocht bot zie ar acquent; like as he will shiaw to ziow all that guid freinds has

done heir. I doubt nocht bot my Lord Secretair writes to ziow herewith, like as I haue also writtin to my Lord Fentoun, and willed him shiaw my lettir to his sacred maiestie; and gif he be absent frome Court, I haue desired him to send it to ziow, to be on his name shiawin to his maiestie, and reteired agane. His maiestie, feing baith quhat the secretaire writes to ziow, and quhat I write to Lord Fentoun, I esteeme, fall sufficientlie tak vp, quhow far Mr Williame Murray is failed too. It can nocht be bot a regraitt to honest men, that debosched drunken babillis fould presume, sa imprudentlie, at sa wyse and iuste a prencis hand, to misreport honest and wordie men, abusing his fauour, more to thair estait, nor to thair mereit or ony worth; bot man be borne with, fence euier sa has bein, suim onwordie in onye best estaitt or gang off men, a Judas amangs Chryftis twelf apostlis. Sua, ending this, wiffis ziow allwayis all weill,

Ziour louing coufing to serue ziow,

DUNFERMELINE.

Frome Edinburgh, 28 Jan<sup>r</sup>. 1615.

To the Right Honorabill my weilbeloued Cofen, Mr Murraye, in his sacred Maiesteis Bedchalmer.

CXLI.—LORD SANQUHAR TO JOHN MURRAY.

FEBRUARY 1, [1615 ?]

RIGHT HONORABILL AND WORTHY CUSSINGE,

My best luffe rememberit. I haiff resaiffid zour letter the 23 of this monthe, quibilk gifis me greit contentment, bothe concerning my awinbiffines and zouris; and as for the bisschope of Santtandrofe behewioure towardis zow, it is cleirly knawin bothe to the kirk of Scotland and to many more, to his greit disadwantage and dislyking of all that heiris the same; for the hale bisschopis is lyk to go mad at him: for, blift be God, Sir, gif ze hard the honourabile report the kirk reportis of zow, ze

wald think zowr trewell weill bestowid, ze haif taken for thame, quhilk maid my hart glaid to heir the fame. Sir, we heir that ze ar a lytile in wytt, and I doubt nocht bot ze fie the fame wtter in fum muffour. Sir, my cunfell to zow is for Godis cause to be circumspeck, and cald, and wyfe, and let nocht zowr passiou ower rewle zow, bot wait zowr tyme, and feik God, and I find zow God to borrowis, they that feikis zowr discredit, they fall find thair awin lykweyis. Sir, ze fall wnderstand Santt-androse hes bein werie feik, and no man lippinis he fall leif.\* Sir, I howpe ze will pardoune me for my cunfell to zow, for I protest to God, it cumes frome ane faithfule hart, that luffis zow trewlie as himself. Ferder, Sir, ze fall wnderstand that the Erle of Orkney conwick of treffone, and is to suffer the thrid of this instant.† Also, Sir, ze fall understand, that I wffid all diligence to haif gottin my declaratore of redemptioun throw aganst the air of Carco, conforme to ane preceis ordore, wffid at my awin instance, for redeiming the lordschipe of Sanquhar out of Carcois handis; and the Lordis of the Seffioun hes decernit my ordour nule, and hes cassin my ordour, for nocht fulfilling the haille heidis contained in the rewerfioun and innowat contrak, sua, that the lordis hes pute me to ane new ordour of redemptioun again: sua, Sir, quhill my ordour of redemptioun be anewe wffid and gottin throw, and decreit of the lordis thair wpoun, the aduocat findis that I can nocht mak his maiestie ane reicht of the shireffchipe, nor he will nocht anfuer for the fame to be wald, as his lordschipe will perticulerlie wryt to zow to the fame effect, and gif his lordschipes awin refonis for the fame to be schawin to his maiestie be zow, Sir; and tile me Lord Advocatis letter of informatioun cum to zow, Sir, ze fall schawe nothing of the biffines to his maiestie; alweyis, Sir, the deley quhen his maiestie knawis the trewth of the biffines, I am persuadit his maiestie will be pleffid with the fame. Alweyis I think gud to aquent zow, Sir, that the casting of this ordour of myne hes pute me in ane greit securittie of my estait; for the casting of my order of redemptioun will tak away the lait Lord Sanquharis ordour of redemptioun that

\* George Gladstones—"The Archbishop of Santandros hes passed ane dangerous fit of apoplexie. It is supposed that ane new assault may be more difficil to put off." Lord Binniog to John Murray—Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 194.

† According to Calderwood, he suffered at the market cross of Edinburgh, February 6, 1615.



the fame will niwer conwalefe agane; for the lait Lord Sanquharis ordour hes all the faltis that my ordour is caffin for, and many mor faltis, fua, that the lordis can niwer cum aganft thair awin decreit all in ane wote in foro contradictorio contentioufflie difputtit; fua, Sir, that ordour that the lordes hes caffin to me, they can niwer fustein to my adwerferie, fua, that all the diffadwantage that I haif, I am put to ane new ordour of redemption. Lykweyis, Sir, ze fall wnderftand forder, that I haif put my Lord Sanquharis fone natrall to the horne for nocht obeying his maieftis decreit, and his maieftie promeift to me gif he geid to the horne I fowld haif his lyfrent for this caufe, quhilk caufe is for diffobeying his maieftis decreit. Sir, the threfforer deput wald glaidlie gif me the fame, but his lordfchip wald haif his maieftis letter for his warrand; fua, Sir, ze man get his maieftis letter for this effeck, and the fame man be done fecretlie, that Roxbruche get nocht wit of the fame, for gif he get wit, he will do all lyis in his power to ftey the fame; for, Sir, fchaw his maieftie this is bot for ftrenthining of his maieftis decreit and fentence.\*

Sir, I wes on Orkneyis alyfe myfelf. Sir, fchawe his maieftie that, be Godis grace, I fall be cairfule to difcharge any ferwice lyis in my power faithfullie to his maieftis contentment, for I knawe his maieftie is and hes ewer bein ane juft and equitabile prince, and I am his maieftis ferwand more nor ordinerrie fubiectis, and fall give prufe of the fame, gif God fpair my lyfe. Frome Edinburgh, the firft of Feberwerrie.

Jowris effectonat and luffing Cuffing to ferwe zow,

SANQUHAR.

Sir, wryt to me with the firft occatioun, for I lange till I heir frome zow.  
To the Richt Honourabill and his  
worthie gud freind Johne Murrey  
of Lochemeben, on of his Maieftis  
Bedchamber, this to be givin.

\* See the King's award in the Abbotsford Miscellany. Robert, Baron, and (1616) Earl of Roxburghe, was the guardian of the late Lord Sanquhar's "sone natral," and would, no doubt, have opposed the proposed gift by the King.

## CXLII.—SIR JOHN COCKBURN OF ORMISTON TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY 3, 1615.

PLEIS YOUR MOST GRATIOUS MAIESTIE,

The deceifed Lord Sinclare\* marying one of my dochters, and by her haveing iffue of tuo fones, of whome the elder, bye his fathers death, being now your maieftyes waird, I, as being the grandfather, can not, in dewtie, omitt to be a humble fuitter, that the gift of his waird and maryage (giving alwayes your majeftyes dew confideratioun thairfoir) may be difponit vnto thofe whome nature doth enforce, and the generall opinion of everie man will prefume to carye the greateft to the pure orphanes weelfare. As for any refpect to be had to my felf heirin, I do only plead out of grace, at the bar of your majefties gracious accuftomed bountye, nawayes challenging any merite (whilk in a fubject may be held for prefumptioun); and yit with proteftatioun of pardoun, avowing that never any of my rank have furpaffed me in dewtyfull affectioun to ferue your majeftie, according to my talent. So, if your majeftie wold be pleafed to teftifie to the world, bye yeilding vnto this my humble fuite, that I am ftill in your majefties gracious fauour (fence it hath bein cuf-tomeable to thofe in publick placeis, and employed in daylie fervice, to be euer refpected in this kynd), no doubt, as it wold gif vnto my graye haires (which are now verie neir to the grave) muche comforte in finding the vnchangeable contynuanee of my moft gracious foveranes affectioun; fo wold it alfo move and encourage vthers to indevore thamefelues by all fervice, on their pairt, to acqyre ane impreffioun in their princes heartis of thair dewtyfull caryage, and becum fo affured, as when anie

\* Patrick sixth Lord Sinclair. By Margaret Cockburn he had John his fucceffor, and Henry, a Colonel in the army, who died at Dysart, 5th February 1670. His only daughter, Elizabeth, married Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenurquhy.

peticuler which micht concerne thame fould occure, that it fould not pas vnregairded. As for the estate of the levyng, the hous hathe bein olde, honourable, and vntainted ; bot the rent and revenues thair of verie fmall, and the fame at this present alluterlie exhaustit by occasioun of three surviving widowes haifing all three feuerall coniunct fyes furth thair of, so as thair is not so muche left of the rent as will afford to the pure orphan ane monthes intertenyment. Perhaps some of conceat to mak benefite thairby may be fuitters heirof, bot I falbe loathe, for the whole worthe of it, to be found within compas of vntreuth ; indeid, the maryage may be some what accomptit of, bot when the boy at this present exceidis not the fourt yeir of his age, God knoweth how vnprofitable those preventiounes may prove. Alwayes humblie intreiting your majestyes pardoun for this my boldnes and prefumptioun, and whollye relying vpoun your most gratyws fauour, which hes neuer yit bein wanting to any weill deserving servant, I humblie kis your sacred hands, and with my prayer for the contynuanace of your majestyes most hapye, long, and prosperous regne, I rest

Your Maiesties most dewtifull and faithfull  
subject and feruitour,

JO. COCKBURNE, ORMISTOUN.\*

Edinburcht, the 3 February 1615.

To my most gracious and dread  
Souerayne, the Kings most  
excellent Maiestie.

\* Son of John Cockburn of Ormistoun, whom he succeeded in 1583. On the 4th of July 1588 he was made, upon the resignation of Lord Boyd, an Extraordinary Lord of Session. He was knighted, and appointed Justice Clerk on the death of Sir James Bellenden in 1591, and admitted an Ordinary Lord on the 15th February 1593. He died in June 1623.

## CXLIH.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

FEBRUARY 24, 1615.

RIGHT HONOURABILL COUSING,

All that I haue to write to ziow is, that wee haue na mater off moment to write off frome this, nor be apeirance wee will haue na subiect off aduertisment till the prisionaris frome Ila be heir, to be tried and examinat. We ar fallin upon fuim discourie off fuim treacherie in mater off coine : fuim villains has used to gilt fuim filuer riellis, baith doubill and fingill, and has geiun thame out for Spanish pistolettis, doubill or fingill. Suim of thame we haif in handis, and, as I hoipe, wee ar on the way off the triell of that abuise ; albeit, wee haue nocht zitt attained to the full knowledge of thair knawishe treadde, zie will heir parhappis mair off this after. The storme continewis still heir, and I think sua thair to, for wee gett na worde frome thence. Sua, ending this, wiffis ziow all contentement.

Your louing Coufing to ferue ziow,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 24 Feb<sup>r</sup>. 1615.

The Archbischoppe St Androis apeirs fuim better in his health, and zit is thocht fall nocht putt off this feiknes in haill. Glasgow\* is gone frome this to see the Jesuist Ogiluie refaue law.

To the Right Honourabill my weilbeloued Coufing, Johne Murray, in his sacred Maiesties Bedchamber.

\* Spottiswood, who succeeded Gladstones as Archbishop of St Andrews.

## CXLIV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

[MARCH 1615?]

I CAN fay na mair to ziow, bot I will be glaid at my hairt to haue anis ane guid end in this befinis, and to be bound to nane, thairfore, onder his sacred maiestie, bot to ziow, quhilk fall neiuier be forgot-  
tin for me ; albeit my powar be bot small, my guid will and acknowledge-  
ment in deute fall be greate and continuall. Sence now, be this resigna-  
tioun, all is putt in his maiesties hand and powar, and he may doe greate  
hurt and displeasour to my nepuieu, quhilk I na wayis can suspect, zit  
fearing eiuill counfall or instigatioun nicht moue his maiestie to derogate  
onye point to his honour, I wald wifs ziow, if zie parsaue onye sic thing  
or motioun in his heighnes minde, then for ziour awin entres deale with  
his maiestie, and shiaw to his heighnes, if he sa did, he wold doe ziow  
gretar wrang nor to onye, to cast a galant zioung man sa far abak, on-  
dir ziour mediatioun, quhairby he thocht to haue had his fatling and quiet-  
nes in his promotioun. Wifs his maiestie and shiaw to him, it will be  
mair conuenient, or he doe ziow that wrang, to latt all stand as before :  
randir him his resignatioun and discharge, and destroy or cancell the writes  
signed, if his maiestie can na wayis consent to his preferment. His  
heighnes may haue wayis anew to hald him abak mair conuenient nor  
this, or to bring ziow in ony blame for sic a mater. This ground I thocht  
guid to signifie to ziow to hald ziow be, if zie find sic intentioun or mo-  
tioun ; for wee fould forsee sa far as wee may, all possibilities habill to  
hurte us, albeit thay be neiuier sa onliklie. If zie can gett at the resaitt  
off this, and sa son as his maiestie fall see the resignatioun, quhilk is maist  
sufficient, ane command to James Douglas to fend hither in diligence

the lettirs figned, quhairoff zie fend me the note, all is weill ; and if zie can gett this done quicklie, I wald nocht think expedient zie maid langer stay on ceremoniall matters and circumstances. The Lord Somerfettis fubfcription is nocht neceffair, nor zie neid nocht troubill him with this. If it be nocht his maiesties pleafour and directioun, I think he will nocht be oppofite, for he has promift fauour and guid will ; bot I defire no stay nor delay, and he has much adoe.\*

Priuāt for ziour felf.

CXLV.—LORD GORDON AND JAMES MOWAT TO KING JAMES VI.

FEBRUARY [1615?]

PLEIS YOUR MAIESTIE,

Efter ane inhibitioun was feruit agaynst M<sup>c</sup>Kintoshe his teyndis, at my Lord Gordoun his instance, and he was requyrit to gife teynding, as ordour of laue prouyds, my Lord Gordoun fend on of his ferwands, with tuo notars and thrie witnefs, to the lands of Collodin, perteyning to the faid M<sup>c</sup>Kintoshe, and thair be wertheue of a decreit obteynid be my lord, befor the Lords of Seffioun, conteynand a leuen yeirs fpulze of the teyndis of the faids lands, to haife poyndit for the by-run fpulzeis ; but M<sup>c</sup>Kintoshe fend and haid lying await about the number of aught or ten fcoir men, armit with guns, pistolats, bous, fuords, and axis. All of them bend thair bous and guns, and violentlie deforffit and boiffit to haif kilt

\* This is an unsigned confidential letter from Lord Dunfermline apparently to John Murray. It relates to the pretensions of his Lordship's nephew to the earldom of Eglinton, which were ultimately recognized by the King. See Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 199.

the faids seruande and witnefs, gife they fuld fett thair foot wpon ther ground, and manifaftlye mifregairdit the lords decreit, and reallit out that they did nocht cair for any decreit, or letters that culd cum from your maieftie. This thay did, the aught day of September, and tuentye-tua day of September laft, in moir ufurping maneir nor can be fchouin your maieftie. M'Kintoſhe did this, moir to haife the cuntrey and your maiefteis peace broikin, nor for any wther refpeck, as may be evidentialie knowin, be reffene my Lord Gordoun wfit means to apoynt feuein feuerall tryftis fence your maieſtee was in Scotland, for agreing that mater, and fubmiſſiouns war pend and fubſcryuit be aither of pairteis and freinds, but M'Kintoſhe not being willing the mater fuld pack wp freindlie, fand means to break euerye on of the meittings on day or tuo befoir thay fuld haife mett, and hes drauin all the broikin heighland men to him, feik as Robert Abrach, on of the Clangrigor, with uthers of his accomplecees that ar your maieſtees rebells to be his fuldeours, and keips them in his houfs of Cullodin, for the fayme effect, and gifs it out that the moſt part of the heighland men in Scotland will tak his pairt, and will be glaid to find any occatioun of a break, becaus they fay they haife nocht threuen fence your maieſtee maid the cuntrey fo peaceable. Heirfoir, my lord humblie entreats your maieftie wreit to the cunfall of Scotland to puniſhe M'Kintoſhe and his complecees for his rebellion and mifregairding your maieſtees laws, and that M'Kintoſhe may be maid to preſent thees rebells quhom he keips as fuldeours, that thay may be takin ordour with, for the better obferuing your maieſtees peace, and preuenting of gryter inconuenientefe.

The nixt cunfall day in Scotland is wpon Wedniſday, the tuentye-on of this month.

*Indorſed:*

Lord Gordoun and James Mowats  
Informatioun to His Maieſtie.

\* This letter, which has no date, is placed by Sir James Balfour amoungst thoſe of the year 1615, although it is probably of a ſomewhat later date.

## CXLVI.—THE EARL OF ANGUS TO KING JAMES VI.

OCTOBER 11, 1615.

PLEIS YOUR MOST GRATIOUS MAIESTIE,

As it wes my no small greiff, when I onderstoude of the sinister and vrongous misreporte of me, conferring my professioun in religioun (the spreaderis of these calumnies vpone ther conceaved advantage of the far-distance of place, presuming that the partie whome they intend to vronge salbe condemned before hearing), so it is vnto me no small conforte to be the subiect of so gratious a soueraigne, with whome no detractioun hath place, nor any evir be him convict vnheard; bot still reserving the one ear to the partie accused, whereof I haue found the particular prowise in this calumny laity vttered againes me be Mr Robert Wilkie, in that your maiestie wes pleased nott to trust what ves vttered untill tryall wes taiken therof be my Lord Santandros; and laiteft, your maiestie did direct Sir Robert Douglas to bring your heines fertentie heirin, who, no dout, befor this tyme hes certified your maiestie how far I haue bene vronged in that buffynes, where the pretendit zeale whereof some makes professioun, caufs them forgett both honestie and discretioun. Alwayes it may veill content me to indure that which too often and most iustlie hes moved my gratious maister and foueranes owen patience. I doe not intend to be in the reverence of any of these people, if they will deliuer no more then treuth, and if your maiestie wald be pleased to direct my Lords St Androis and Glasgou to provyid many of our kirkes heir vith sik as wald not presis to supplie there vant of good doctrine and paynes, and there private instructioun, with a pretendit outward schaw and pretence of devoted zeale, no doubt it wald try a great meanes to strethen them who ar meanly groundit, and to releyue many who daylie fall away. It is now four yeares since your maiestie had a letter of my hand-vritt, which may giue full assurance of my professioun. Intreating,



therfor, humble your maiestie to rest confident, notwithstanding of what-  
 evir falbe informed to the contrarie, vntill I fall refuifs the tuichstone of  
 all dew tryall, in geuing full satisfactiōe to the most worthie fatheries of  
 the church, and secunditt by these vho serue cuire vnder them, as they  
 themselves doe most vorthely discharge there owen roumes, and gives rea-  
 sone of your maiesties most just prais, in making so good choice. And  
 praying the Almichtie God long to continow your maiesties long and  
 most happie gracious gouernment ower ws, I kifs your sacred hand, and  
 restis

Your Maiesties most dewtifull subiect  
 and seruitour,

ANGUS.\*

Douglas, the 10 of October 1615.

To my most gracious and dreid Soue-  
 raigne, the Kingis most excellent  
 Maiestie.

CXLVII.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

NOVEMBER 24, 1615.

RIGHT HONOURABILL AND WEILBELOUED COUSING,

I thank ziow maist hartlie for ziour guid remembrance be ziour  
 lettir, quhilk I refaude fra James Bailzie. As to that ziour lettir bearis,  
 ze hoiped to see me thair shiortlie, treulie at the refaitt I marueled thair-

\* William, eleventh Earl of Angus. He succeeded his father (many of whose letters occur in the early part of this volume) in 1611—was created Marquis of Douglas, 18th June 1633, and died in the 71st year of his age, at Douglas Castle, 19th February 1660. He left the religion of his father, and became a Protestant.

off; for albeit the berar, James Bailzie, fhiew to me, also, he was informed he wald meit me on my iornay be the way, at that tyme I knew off na apeirance nor rafoun thairfore; bot fenfyne, within this four dayis, my Lord Fentoun has signified to me be his lettir, it is maiesties gracious pleasour, at the queenis maiesties desire, that I fould cuim up fa sone as I may conuenientlie. For this present, I can nocht enterprise that iornay, for my bedfallow is on the point to be broght to bed within werie few dayis, and before shoe can be at that estaitt that I may weill leiuie hir, will be the dead off the zieir, maist difficill and hard to onye man to trauell, and I am now na chikkin, drawing to three score, was neiuer werye ruide nor strong, albeit, nather too delicat nor sparing off my self. Alwayes fa sone as I can find I may weill tak toe to sic a voyage, I fall, be Goddes grace, mak ziw foresein off my intentioun, and off my dyett; for I will alwayis be bath hamelie with ziw, and trubilsuim to ziw in all my adois.

All our estaitt heir is (praised be God) fa quiett as can furnish us na subject off occurrence to write off to our freindis. God hald all lang sua, and preferue our maist gracious souerane and maister, quhome fra (vndir God) proceidis all this our calmnes, frome his wyfe, equitabill, and iust directions and ordonancis. Sua, wiffing ziw also all happines, I reffe for eiuer

Your louing Coufing alwayis at  
command,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 24 Nouember 1615.

I desire this may remembir baith my bedfallowis and my maist hartlye kindnes to ziwour good halfmarrow. We wifs hir a good and blith deliuerie off hir burding to hir contentement and wifs, and to ziworis. Zie may

fhiaw hir that hir speciall guid freind, my dochter, my Ladye Eglintoun, has bein in parell off hir lyff, and is zit, albeit, now (praied be God) fuim thing softer ; for shoe was fallin in a haitt feuir tua dayis, before shoe was brocht to bed, and through that feiknes preueined hir tyme ten or twelf dayis : has now bein this 15 dayis in continuall vehement feuir, butt rest, and oft reuing ; this tua last nights at fuim ease and quietnes, zit werie feike and weake.

To the Right Honourable my weil-  
beloued Cousen, Jhone Morraye,  
in his sacred Maiesteis Bedchalmer.

CXLVIII.—JAMES VI. TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR AND REMANENT LORDS  
OF THE COLLEGE OF JUSTICE.

DECEMBER 3, 1615.

JAMES R.

Right trusty and welbeloued cofen and counfellow, trusty and welbeloued counfellores, wee greet yow well. Whereas wee were pleased this last summer that Commissioners shoud be appoynted for surueying of all the coilheuches within our kingdome of Scotland, to the effect that before wee would graunt a licence for carrying of coilles to any forraine nation, it might be feriously confiddered whither the coilheuches of that kingdome might subsist and be mantained by their ordinarie sale in furnishing the countrey about the places where they are ; togidder with the benefite arrysing by the number of those coilles which are brought from thence to this our kingdome ; or if there were a necessitie for thair better mantainance, that a priuiledge shoud be graunted for transporting them to other nationes, wee vnderstand that a surwey wes made for this effect, but for the present haue not besyde ws your testimonie thereupoun.

Therefore oure pleafour is, that yow certifie ws what wes found by the Commission foresaid, with your judgement thereanent, that thereafter (haueing the reguard that is due to the goode of that oure kingdome) wee may resolue what is expedient for ws to be done ; fo, expecting your answair, wee bid yow hartely farewell. Frome oure Court at Newmercat, the 3 of December 1615.

To oure right trusty and welbeloued  
Cofen and Counsellour, the Earle  
of Dumfermiling, oure Chancellour  
of Scotland : to our trustie and  
welbeloued Counsellouris, the rem-  
nant Lords of oure Colledge of Jus-  
tice of the said kingdome.

CXLIX.—LORD CRANSTOUN TO JOHN MURRAY.

DECEMBER 9, 1615.

RYCHT HONORABILL,

Within this fourtnycht I haue wryttine tuo feuerall letters to zow, quhilk I hoip be cumit to zour handis : the one be my nephew, the schereife of Tivotdail, the vthair be my seruant Niniane Armstrange. Quhat I wrett in thes letters, I hoip it will be neidles to repeat in this ; onlej this berer beinge dysposit to repair to courtt, I make bolde to remimber zow in all dewtej. I know the careierr will informe zow of the estait that zour sifter is in for the present,\* and quhat myghttej enemej hir husband and scho hes opynglej professit to their rueine. Itt is in zour handis to help for the present, and quhat ye will commande me to do to thair funder, affuire zowrsel I fall leiuie nothinge vndoun that lyis in my

\* Jean Murray, who married John Maxwell of Kirkewine. Their son James was created by Charles I. Earl of Dirleton, Lord Elbottle in 1646. As the patent limited the earldom and barony to heirs-male of the body, the titles became extinct upon the demise of the earl, who left only two daughters, Ladies Elizabeth and Diana.

power. This much I dyffyre zow to make account of, and so takis my  
leue, and restis

Zowris ever affurit to doo zow serveice,

W. CRANSTOUNE.\*

Too the Richt Honourabill my verej  
kynd freinde, Mr Johnne Murrey,  
of his Maiesties royell Bedchalmer.

CL.—LORD SCOTT OF BUCCLEUCH TO [JOHN MURRAY?].

DECEMBER 9, 1615.

SIR,

I do vrett to you now in a subgett quhairin I did nott attend  
to haue had ony occassione, if them quhome it touches had had ony con-  
sideratione off thair awin particular credit, lett be ony obligatione I micht  
justly chaulengett for mony raifons. Robin Ellott† is on hys journey  
towards you for a particular quiche I thynk quhen you vnderftand the  
verite, you vill nott approve hys faffons. You remember for your re-  
spect I gave hym the faueur that mony having the raifons I had againft  
hym, and thofs advantages off revanche, vood a extenditt them more  
rigourously nor I did; yett, quhatt did passe, I estimett vell employtt for  
your regard. Att thatt tyme I passett hym hys infestement off lands,  
quhairin I hope he did signify to you he vafs satisfieth fully by hys letter,  
and you also did ratify by a letter to myself of your pairt: he immediatly,  
after my signing of hys securitie, gois and falsfis in the rycht I gauve  
hym, and inferts others lands in hys charter, quiche most evidently I vill

\* William Cranstoun, son of John Cranstoun of Moriestoun. He married Sarah, the heiress of Cranstoun  
—was captain of the guard to James VI., who knighted him, and thereafter elevated him to the peerage, 17th  
November 1609. He died in June 1627.

† Elliot subsequently attempted to assassinate Lord Buccleuch. See Melros Papers, vol. ii. p. 378.

prove, bothe by ocular inspeçtione, afs also by other circonfstances I will fchow att the triall thairof, vafs nott given hym by me : efter thys maner, he caufis a vryter raife vp some wordes and put in others, afs thai haue a trik to dow heir, them quho hefs no honefty to obferve.\* Judge you if thatt man fould a carriett hymfelf to me in thatt forte. I knewe the humour off the man better nor you did ; and you moft remember I told you tharr vafs no honefty to be attenditt of hym. If you vnderftud hys particular cariage to them you fauour hym for, I am perfuaditt you vood nott do for hym in indeferant occaſiones, lett be in thofs quhair he micht paraventure haue ſome raifone. Belieue this informatione vill prove juſt to hys difcreditt ; and I am affeurett no man off honour bott vill reput hym naucht. It is nott only difcreditt to hym, bot indangeris hys lyf to falſify ane infeſtment. I thocht expedient to acquent you with it, to the end you may affeure you off my juſt deling, and thatt you kno hys ingrattitudes. I hope you vill thynk I do no thyng in it bott quhatt apertines to ane man off honour to do, quhen he finds hymfelf ſo ingratly and dihoneſtly vfett. So, remetting all to your confideration, I reſt ever hym quhome you haue moſt abſolut pouer to command,

BUCKLEUGHE.†

Edinburghe, 9 December 1615.

I viſis I had occaſione to fye you, quharby I micht informe more particularly off hys carriage to me.

\* Such practices as theſe were then common enough.

† Then Lord Scott of Buccleuch. He was not elevated to the earldom until 1619. His Lordſhip had the command of a regiment in the ſervice of the States of Holland, and ſerved with much reputation againſt the Spaniards. He was thus addreſſed by Arthur Johnſton :—

*Arva dedit Scoto Rex Scotus, Belga dat aurum*

*Estque triumphatus ſerta daturus Iber.*

He died at London, on the 21ſt of November 1633, and his body was put on board a veſſel for Leith, which arrived after a moſt tempeſtuous voyage, and after being nearly caſt away on the coaſt of Norway. The corpe was carried to Branzholm, and his Lordſhip interred there. An account of the funeral ceremony occurs in “The Genealogical and Hiſtorical Tracts of Sir James Balfour,” printed at Edinburgh, 1837, from the Balfour MSS. 12mo.

CLI.—SIR ALEXANDER HAY TO JOHN MURRAY.

DECEMBER 21, [1615?]

SIR,

There is nothing that I can wryite from henfe bot it is fo fpedelye advertifed by thefe who haif the chaarge, that I holde it a neidlefs poynte in me to trouble any with renewing of ftate advertifmentis. Thir pairtes affordes not nather muche nor greit mater. So long as it pleifes God of his infinite mercye to prolonge our maifteris gracious governament over ws, there is nothing to be expected heir bot all dewtiful obedience; and albeit now and then there may fall out fome incidentis, fo is there no bodeye of nevir fo gode constitutioun, bot will haif a catharre, or fome other diftemperature. Alwayes our Lyles service is finifhed, and our lieutenant, the Erle of Argyle, returned yifternight, and wilbe with the counfell this day. By many it is thoght, that if goode will did fecunde the dewtye whiche they ar bounde to do, thir frequent iyland employmentis wald not occurre fo often. I wrotte to yow in my former lettres that account being takin what this Lyla hathe floode his maiefties cofferis into thir tuo voyages, and fpecially in the accomptes of admiraltye there. I doubt if the rent of our whole Lyles will recompense it in ten yeir. Sen it is now quyt, it is fitting the purchafferis of the new right ather fecuire it heirefter, and difburdeyne his maiefties cofferis of funder chaarge, or then furrender it to his maieftie; for when thir employmentis ar fo profitable in prefent pay, and a preparatioun for making fuite at courte for service done, how eafie a mater it is to haif fome of thefe vnhalloved people, with that vnchristiane language, readye to furneis frefh wark for the tinker, and the mater fo caryed as that it is impossible to deprehend the plotte. But leiving this vntill the leutennant

mak a relatioun of his service, we haif had in the boundis of Cathnes, some barne yairdes brunte to the Lord Forbes, a barbarous actioun, and pernicious in so skairse a year. Alwayes, howevir, baife lownes be actouris, it is muche to be feared that without fetting on of greiter, these thinges wald not be interpryfed. In the other pairtis of the cuntry there is greit quyetnes and obedience; and there is a very dewtifull nobleman, your maiche, the Erle of Kingorne deceiffed,\* concerning whois wairde no doubt you will heir be the officeris whome it concernis, who in this fame particular, without regaird of any manis fwite, howevir otherwayes he affectis them, caryes no other founde bot a goode compositioun to his maiestie, and haiftenis to haif it put to the best, that suiteing and importuneing his maiestie there, hinder not his proffeit heir. We haif now ane act registrat in our exchecker bookis, whereof I can not find these hundreth yeiris past any lyike president, to witt, to lay vp so muche every moneth in stoire. It is one of the most dewtifull courfes that evir wes intendit for the kinges service; for if we had ones bot ten thousand pundis sterling in stoire, not to be stirred, the report of it wald do as muche to reteyne our peple in obedience as the interteyneing of a continuall garriefoun. The povertie of the crowne is the caus of the infolence oftentimes of people who propone to them felfis befor preparatioun can be made for thair perswite, ather a compositioun, or then tyme to escaipe; bot when it is knowne to be in reddynes, it will stay them to sturre. His maiestie will find the goode of this in a short progres of tyme; and I pray God that nothing from thense hinder the going forward of it. The Erle of Mar is there alreddy; we looke the chancellour fall shortly tak jorney. I pray God in these busynes of discovereyes whiche yow haif abowe, his maiestie may evir haif a regairde to himself; and yit I doubt not of Godes provydence for his preservatioun, for I am fully affuired of Godis mercye towardis me, that I fall prevent him, and that he fall longe continew efter; and if it be Godis pleafour, I haif no desyre as yit to end. In him is all our earthly happynes; and for my pairt,

\* He died December 19, 1615, which fixes the date of this letter.



I culd wishe the last confirmatioun fuld come at the time of his visiteing.  
 Lord keip him, and you yourself still attend him as you do; and so I  
 rest

Youris at command,

ALEX<sup>r</sup>. HAY.

Edinburgh, 21 Dec<sup>r</sup>. [1615?]

To the Right Honorabill and his affuired  
 Mr Johnne Murray of Lochmaben, of  
 his Maiesties Bedchamber.

CLIL.—SIR ALEXANDER HAY TO JOHN MURRAY.

DECEMBER 21, 1615.

SIR,

I must begine with craiveing pardoun for my bypast silence, haveing this excuise, that in so busye tymes abowe, lettres, vnles they wer of the more moment, might give mater of offence rather than contentment. To retribute complement for the substance of favour I ressaive, wer in me vndewtifulnes. I wrotte vnto you in a particular, and obteyned not only the busines dispatched by his maiestie, but so recommendit by your self to him who wes to performe the residew of it, as haveing it all done, I must confes my self your iust debtour therefor in no les degrie then if it had bein your owne frie gift, and yit can offer no more then what I wes formerly bounde, and sall evir remayne what I am or evir salbe; and as beggeris do moste importune where they come best speide, I must entreate you in the first occasioun of any of your lettres to

my Lord Thesaurar, your coufeing, to give him thanks for his freyndly dealing in my bufynes, and I hope he fall not find it ewill beftowed. The other lettre\* I haif written to be fhewin by you to his maieftie, if you think meitt, or fuppreffed; for I can wryite nothing bot what otheris may bothe preuent me, or wryite bettir; and yit I falbe loathe to wryite any thing bot the treuth. So, with remembrance of my humble dewty to your fueitt bedfellow, vnto whome I pray God grant my Lady Dumfermling hir laite goode lucke, I tak my leive, refting,

At your fervice,

ALEX<sup>R</sup>. HAY.

Edinburgh, 21 Dec<sup>r</sup>. [1615?]

To his very honorabill and affuired  
freynd, M<sup>r</sup> Johne Murray of Loch-  
maben, of his Maiefties Bed-  
chamber.

CLIII.—THE EARL OF CRAWFORD AND LORD SPYNIE TO KING JAMES VI.  
[1615?]<sup>†</sup>

MOST DREDE AND GRACIUS SOUERANE,

We, your maiefties humble fubiectis, the Erle of Craford,  
the Lord of Spynie, Anna and Margaret Lindfayis, dochteris to vmquhile

\* See preceding letter. The present one was entirely confidential.

† There is no date to this letter; but it has been placed by Balfour, whose arrangement, however, cannot much be relied on, amongst those of 1615. Edzell seems to have been by no means in an enviable situation, for some years after the death of Lord Spynie. In a letter to the King, dated 16th August 1608,

Alexander Lord of Spynie, hering that the prebbitrie of Edinburgh, and bischopis of this 3our maiesties kingdome, hes enterit in deiling with the Laird of Edgzell for relaxatioun of him fra his excommunicatioun, without anie satisfactioun of 3our maiestie, or guidwill of ws, quibiche fall neuer be without 3our maiesties speciall command for oure pairtis, we most humblie haue taken occassioun to pray 3our maiestie for justeice, and that 3our maiestie wald nocht suffer so hard ane preparatiue pas in oure contrare, quho hes no other protectioun, vnder God, bot 3our maiesties favour; and we dout nocht bot 3our maiestie will remember the one of ws wanting his vnclie and dereft freind, the rest thair father, and hes left ws altogidder vnprovydit; and that pur estait quhilk it pleiffed 3our maiestie of 3our most gracijs liberalitie to bestow vpone vmquhile the Lord of Spynie, 3our maiesties owne creatour, be his vntymly deith neir brocht to rowein. So, in all humilitie, we most humblie desyre 3our maiestie to send fuche ordour to the bischopis, that thair be no favour schowne to that cruell murderer without 3our maiesties first satisfactioun: Praying to God for 3our maiesties monie happie dayis, we, as we aucht, fall ever remaine

3our Maiesties most humble and obedient subiectis,

CRAWFORD.  
SPYNIE.\*

To his most Sacrede Maiestie.

he states that he had "stayit heir in Edinburgh ane yeir bygane, and three months, crawling ewer to be tryit of the onhappy slauchter of my unquhill Lord of Spynie, quhair of I protest before God and your Maiestie I am maist innocent." He complains besides of the persecution of Lord Crawford in March 1609. See Letter, a previous part of this volume, where he accuses that nobleman directly of forgery,

- The second Lord Spynie.

CLIV.—SIR WILLIAM DOUGLAS OF DRUMLANRIG TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 6, 1616.

RICHT WORTHIE AND LOWING BROTHER,

Ze remember, in on of my former lettres, I schew zow that I had gotin fum tryall of that uyld and barbarous uillaine, quhilk was countit in the slaying of my scheip, quhen I was laft at court; quhairin I did than wreat ze more sparinglye, being lothe (in respect of zour griter affairis) to trubill zow with it, till I had brocht it till fum farther cleirnes, quhilk now I have done, and hes tuo fallowis presentlie in hand that war aëtoris in it, the on callit Jok Scott, the fukler, quho hes confessit the simpell treuth in all poyntis, bothe of his auin pairte, and the rest that war with him at that filthye aëtioune, to wit, Geordie Scott, the fouter, callit Mariounis Geordie; Watt Scott, callit Braidis Wattie; Willie Scott, callit of Satchelis; and Ingrum Scott. This fuccler in his confefsioune he condiscendis cleirlye both vpoun the tyme, place, and forme of thair meiting and pairting, with all wther takinis and circumstanceis that past amongft thame quhen they war togidder (as his depositioun beiris): Notwithstanding, this vther, callit Geordie Scott, the fouter (quhom I have also in handis) standis zit to his denyall. Altho they be many grit presumptiounis of his guiltineis, alwayis the fuccler being fundry tymes examinat and confrontit with him befor the Lordis of Counfall, he abydis constantly at everye poynt of his first confessioun, and offeris nocht only to fecht the fouter in it, bot all the rest, everie on of thame efter another, quhenfoeuer they can be had, gif it will pleis his maieftie and the counfall to suffer him. The vther thrie ar fugitiues for that and other crymes of thift and flauchter; and, as I wnderstand ar all out of the cuntray, fum in Irland, and fum ellis quhair; vtherwayis befor this tyme, I think I had fund meanis to have gotin thame in handis, zit (according till our auld Scottis proverb) “Ane Zule feist may be quat at Pasch,” quhen perhapis they may imagin it to be forget. In the meintyme, let me intreit zow, that ze will do me that fauowr to motioun this maiter to his maieftie, quhair-

by I may have it by his letter recommendit to the counfall, nocht only for the exact tryall and punisshment thair of to the daith, for the wrang that is alredie done, bot also to terrifie all other malefactoris from attempting the lyk heirefter: Quhilk, I protest to God, I ponder more in respect of the preparatiue and consequens that may follow thairvpoun to the preuidice of the comoun weill of the countray, in cais it be lichtlie passit over vnpunischit, than for any particular of my avin. Now, gif ze find it expedient, it war nocht amis, seing the chancler and secritar (quha knawis the haill estate and progress of this buffines) ar to be with his maiestie at court, that ze sould haue thame neir hand by, quhen ze propoun it to his maiestie, incais he happin to defyre thair opinioun in it. And this I wald beseik zow to do with all the conuenient haift zow can, that I may have zowr anfuer, with his maiesties letter, befor the seuinth or aucht of the nixt month; becaus I do intend, Godwilling, at thatyme to have thir tuo fallowis, at leift on of thame, put to the tryall of ane affyse, at quhilk tyme, if nocht befor thane, I do affur myself that God fall mowe the hart of him quho standis most obstinatlie to his denayall euin to confes the treuth, as the other hes done; albeit thair be sum buffie headit men heir, quhom I will nocht name at this tyme, that wald wis the contrair, and ar deiling be all menis possibill, so far as in thame lyes, to that effect; bot be the grace of God, and his maiesties fauowr, with zowr help, I howp to disapoynt thame. As for the rest of my particularis, I trust zow will nocht be forgetfull of thame, and quhen zow find zowr auin tyme, will let me know, that I may luik for in thame. So I hawe no more to say, bot alwayis efter on, I rest

Zowris in quhat I can to serue zow,

DRUMLANRIG.\*

Edinburgh, the vi. day of Januar 1616.

\* Sir William Douglas entertained James VI. at his house of Drumlanrig in 1617. He was created a peer by the title of Viscount of Drumlanrig, Lord Douglas of Hawick and Tibberis, to him and his heirs-male, bearing the name and arms of Douglas, by patent dated at Whitehall, 1st April 1628. In 1633, he was advanced to the Earldom of Queensberry by patent, dated 13th June, with a similar remainder. He died 8th March 1640.

Now will do me the fauowr to present my humbill seruice to zowr lady.

To his muche honoured and worthie  
 Brother, Jhone Murray of Loch-  
 maben, Grume of his Maiesties  
 Bedchamber, thes.

CLV.—THE EARL OF TULLIBARDINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 6, 1616.

LOUING COUSING,

I haue reffeuit your lettre from Royftoune the 21 off Decem-  
 ber laft. Albeit ye vill excufe your fellff, yit I vill euer aqualedge your  
 loue and kyndenefs, allthoo I knoo it hes not produft fuche effects as ye  
 vifcht, yit it is not your fault. And whair as ye vrett that my honours  
 fall be expecte at my lords fecretairs vpcumming, and, in the men tyme,  
 that I take no noteife thair off to any; I affure you, coufing, I haue careid  
 myfelfff fo. Bot it hes fallin out vtherwayis, not be me, for me Lord of  
 Scone, at his returne home, haid occafion off conference with me Lord  
 Chanfler, to whome he fcheu his maieftis gratius plefour touarts me in  
 that, vpon me Lord's demand, thinking he hed beine alls villing heirto,  
 as off befoir he hed proffest, bot he fund him alltert and oppofeit, and  
 yit moir in forme than effect, bot houeuver by not fo as off befoir; and at  
 my leiuie taking off me Lord Chanfler, he entert fom thing with my fellff  
 in that mater, to knau hou far vais proceidit thairin; bot I fcheu his Lord-  
 fchip that I kneu nothing. His reffone vais vpon the forme, which he  
 thocht could not be be the Erl of Atholls demiffion in his auin tyme, bot  
 only be vay off taillgie, as it fell to me Lord Eglingtonne. I denyed that  
 thair vais ony fuche mater concerning myfelfff, and yit I reffoned with  
 him that, be demiffione and refignation, that mycht be be his maieftis vill,

all is veill as if by this forme off taillgie, for boithe off them vair be difpofitions; albeit that off me Lord Eglingtounes referued his lyffrent, and the vther not; nor could me Lord Eglingtounne haue fuccedit to the laft, be reffone of the ordinar taillgie, as nareft of blood, if it haid not beine refign'd be the laft lord in the kings hands, referuand me Lord Eglingtounne his lyffrent, and to this efter his difcefs: This he could not anfuer too. I fcheu him lykwayis hou the Lord Ochilltry hes his honour and place as the laft lord and wtheris: Mycht it not be fo vith me, be all refpounne? my vyffe being the Erlle off Atholls eldeft dochter, and, if his maieftie pleas'd, fcho mycht boithe be lau and reffounne fuccaide to the honour and place off hir father. This he confest vais treu; and fua I endit that difcours, affuring him that I kneu nothing off his maiefteis vill heirin. He vill impede all that he can; me Lord off Scone and I advyft vith me Lord Secretair, wha hes thocht miteft that ve fould boithe vrett to you, that if ye could, it mycht be fent home fubfcriyvit, as I take it all redy togidder vith ane lettre to the counfell heir, and command to the keiper of the gret fell to pafs the fame vith diligence, and this to be donne befor me Lord Chanfler his cumming to court, fua that thinge being ons done, he valld be content. Conforme heirto, ve haue boithe vretin thir prefents, and they ar to be fent poft be me Lord Secretair, to whome ve haue delyverit them. Cufing, doo heirin as ye vill, for if itt fall reffeve this fecond lett, I vill haue the lefs houe, and I proteft to God I think moir off mens maleice nor I cair off ony thing ells. I vrett ane lettre to you laittly dereft to me Lord off Scone and you boithe, tuitching the dethe of my Lord of Kingorne, and that ve compond for this lords vaird and marriage heir at home for twellff thoufand marks: my defyr to you boithe, as lykvais in my vther letter to my brother Sir Patrik, [is] to deill vith his maieftie if I mycht haue haid the compofition. What ye haue done heirin I knau not, bot I vald request you to be ane feuter at left to affift Sir Patrik heirin, that his maieftie mycht be pleas'd to grant it to me, for in confcience, cufing, ye knau my hellp off his maieftie as yit hes bein bot litill, and I doe all that I can to hellp ane diftreffit eftat. It may be that thair vill be vthers in fent off this off his maieftie, at me Lord Chanflers comming thair; and if it could be pre-

veind in tyme, I vald requeist you erniftly. Bot I remitt this to your  
auin discretion, and committs you to God. I rest

Yours euer affurit loving Cufing,

TULLIBARDINE.

Edinbro, the 6 off Janouer 1616.

CLVI.—FRANCIS, TITULAR EARL OF BOTHWELL, TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 8, 1616.

RIGHT HONORABILL AND LOVING FREIND,

It is not long since I trublit yow with ane lettre, with your  
brother in law of Laristane, quhairof I haue not yit receauit anfuer:  
Yit, not the les, the former prooffe I had of your wnderferued and wn-  
acquyteable fauour imboldenis me agane to trouble yow, and maist ear-  
neftly to defyre your favourable affistance, your pouerfull intercession and  
great moyane, to the secounding of this my most equitable and humble  
petition, quhilk the Lordis of our Counsell off Scotland, in my name, hes  
sent wnto his sacred maiestie, be his maiesties speciall command unto  
my selfe, quhen last I had the honor to kis his royall hands, command-  
ing me quhatfumeuer I had to say vnto his maiestie in anye my awin par-  
ticulars, at my returne to Scotland, to present it be petition to thair  
lordships, and to defyre thair lordships, in his most sacred name, to pre-  
fer my equitable, iust, and humble petition to his maiesties royall pre-  
sence, to the quhilk his most sacred maiestie promeist ane gracious  
anfuer; affuring myselfe, if in this it fall pleas yow to honour me with  
your fauour, freindshiipe, and affistance, to obtain my most equitable de-  
fyre, my petition being so iust and reasonable, as his most gracious ma-



iestie did never refuse the lyke to anye of his gyltles subjects. Leving, for tedioufnes, the particulars of my petition, for your better instruction, I haue referred them to the sufficiencie of the beirar, M<sup>r</sup> James Reath, feruitour to my Lord Chancellour of Scotland, quhom it will pleis yow to do me the favour to question in this matter: Him also haue I most earnestlie intreated to be, in my absence, agent at your hands for me; desyring yow most humbly, as euer I fall be redde to do yow seruice, that it wald please yow at all times quhen your moir serious ado is fall permit me the favour, that, being requyred of the beirar in my name to give your presence to the heiring and assisting of my iust cause, not to deny it. For the quhilk to the death, I fall rest

Euer oblised to do yow seruice,

FRANCIS STEUART.\*

Setoun, the 8 of Januar 1616.

To the Right Honorable and my  
verie loving freind, M<sup>r</sup> Mur-  
ray of Lochmabane, one of his  
Maiesties Bedchalmer.

CLVII.—LORD SANQUHAR TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 9, [1616?]

RIGHT HONORABILL AND WORTHIE CUSSING,

My best luffe and dewtie rememberit, I haif resaiiffed zowr letter daittit the 21 of December, frome Roystowne, quhairin I perfaiffe that ze, Sir, haiffe gottin fure resolutioun that my Lord Sanquharis sone

\* See page 294.

is ane and tuentie zeiris compleit bygane at Santandrofe day; as also, Sir, ze defyre me resolwe with my Lord Chanchler and Advocat quhat is best to be done, and the same fall be followed with all faithfulness and expeditioun. As for answer, Sir, therto, within aucht dayis I fall wryt my awin oppinioun and the advocats to zow; and as for the chanchleris, his lordschip wes gone to curt befor I sawe this letter of zowris, bot I fall wryt to his lordschip particulerlie in that biffines of myne, to conffer with zow at lenthe in it, and ze and his lordschip, I dowt nocht, will resolwe on the best curse concerning my weill. For I do trust in my Lord Chanchler as I do in zow, Sir, for I haif greit pruffe of his lordschippis fawour in my greitest biffinese; and, Sir, as ewer I may be eble to ferwe zowr plesour, let his lordschip sie that for my cause, ze will haife so muche the greitter cair to stand freindlie to his lordschip, and spair nocht to let his lordschip knawe, albeit ze neid nocht my fute, howe ernist I am with zow to plesour his lordschip: And, Sir, I ernistlie requist zow ower agane to do the chanchler all the gud offeice lyis in zow; for, Sir, confidder he mey do zow gud offeice in oure cuntrie; and giffe ze wnderstude his lordschip reichilie, ze wald find his lordschip ane worddie man; and I dar assure zow, the more ze haiffe ado with him, Sir, ze fall ewer find the moir worthe in his lordschip; and giff it wer wtherways, I protest to God, I wald nocht affirme the same to zow as I do, for all the erthe; and the onlie cause makis me, Sir, to wryt this ernistlie to zow is pertlie out of my lowe to zow, as lykwyse for the luffe I carie to his lordschip, and that quhilkis last of all, I knawe his lordschip to be ane of the honestest myndit men within oure kingdome, and it is ewer sik men I wald wisse zow to be in greitest formes with. And as for my place in cunfell, Sir, ze haif werie fite tyme now to deill in it, for thair is twa places in cunfell waikand; the ane is my Lord of Gingornis\* place, and the wther is Mr George Zowngis place, quha ar baith laitlie disseiffit at the plesour of God. My Lord Henzie† wes plectid on the cunfell this last cunfell day, and I lukit, Sir, to haif cumit alse gud speid as any in oure cuntrie that wald haif bein futteris for the same, alweyes quhat fall I fey, I am a lytile disap-

\* Patrick, ninth Lord Glamis, and first Earl of Kinghorn, died the 19th of December 1615.

† The Earl of Enzie, afterwards second Marquis of Huntly.

poynttit of my expectatiounis; bot, Sir, do ze in it as ze pleis. Sir, I knawe gif his maiestie speik the chanchler any thing concerning me or my biffines, the chanchler will report better of me nor I am worthe: and I recommend that turne, tuiching my place in confell to zowr doing, Sir, with als greit expedition as may be, as ze haif done mekill mair for me. Sir, I am werie diligent [at] present till trying the secreit of my Ladie Thororoells lyfrent, and fall with the first cettation adwertise zou quhat I learne of the fame, bot I can proceid no forder bot be on my tryell till I heir frome zow, quhat ze haif done thereanent zourselb. Sua, I fall ewer continew zowr effectiounat cussing to ferwe zow,

SANQUHAR.

Frome Edinburgh, the 9th of Janarey  
[1616].

Sir, speik me Lord Secreitter on my biffines, that if Roxbruche enter my wey with his Lordships, that he may schewe Roxbruche ther is no helping in that perticuler be lawe to be lukit for to the Lord Sanquhars fone, as lykweyis that his Lordship ley downe no wther curfe to Roxbruche in my contrair.\*

To his muche honnoret gud freind,  
Johne Murrey of Lochmeben, on  
of his Maiesteis Bedchamber,  
theise be givin.

\* 18th September 1616. "Thair is charges direct against William Creichton, bastard son to the late Lord Sanquhar, and the Laird of Drumlanrig, one of his curators, to compear before the counsall-day, the nint of October, now approaching, for satling that mater betuix the Lord Sanquhar and him. The Lords of Roxburgh and Buccleugh, vther tuo of the saids curators, being personalie present with the Lord Sanquhar, ar warnit heirof *apud acta*, and promised to keep the said day." Note of Privy Council proceedings. The result of the proceedings on that day was transmitted to the King by the Privy Council, and the letter on the subject will be found in the Melros Papers, vol. i. p. 264.

## CLVIII.—THE EARL OF ERROL TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 12, 1616.

RIGHT HONORABILL AND MY LUIFING FREIND,

Howfoeuir hithertillis I haif neuir found the meanes, in any fort, to oblishe zow vnto me, zit, wnderstanding be findrie aduerteifmentis from my sonne, and lastly mair particularlie fra my sonne, my Lord Erskin, zour luifing kindnes and ondeserwit fauour to my sonne; as I find myself werie far indebtit to zour courtesie, sa can I not omit heirby to rander zow maift hertlie thanks for the same, defyring alwayis the continewance of zour regard to him; lyk as, gif be zour furtherance he find good succes in his effairis with his maiestie, as he will thairby be the mair able to serue his maiestie and his luifing freindis, sa fall ze rest affurit, that wherin I and he can serue zow or any of zouris to good offices, ze fall find zour kyndnes thankfullie acquyted in what we can be worth, praying zow to mak use of ws as occasioun fall offer. Sa, remitting all farther to zour luifing consideratioun, my hertly affectioun rememberit, I rest for euir

Zour maift luifing freind,

ERROLL.

Erroll, 12 Januar 1616.

To the Richt Honorabill my luifing  
freind Johne Murray, one of his  
Maiesties Bedchalmer.

## CLIX.—THE EARL OF CAITHNESS TO KING JAMES VI.

JANUARY 26, 1616.

MOST GRASIVS SOVERENE,

The occatioune that hes moued me to fashe your maieftie with this my letter, is the malicius malice of my iuill difposed nighbouris, quha neuer ceafes to do me vrang, and to inuent calumneis aganeft me, to incens your maiefties vrathe aganeft me. Thay haue inuentit ane moft odius and ane inhumane lie, as my Lord Binning and Jhone Murray wille informe your maieftie at grytter lenthe, whilk thay wald, if thay could, mak me to be the authore of (wheche inuentioun will not content thame, all thocht that the world knauis my innoſenfie, and hes offered myſelfe to the tryell of your maiefteis moſt honorabille counſell, if I could find ane accuſer). Thay haife preaced to ſuborne brokin men to lie wpone me, be promiſing thame bothe land and geare, as I fall qualifie; thinking throw the intollarabille wrangis I daylie ſufftine, I will be compelled to do ſume thingis aganeft thame for my creditis cauſe, to brake your maiefteis peace, and be that mine to make me to loſe your maiefteis fauour. My ennimeis ar many and malifius: (my confort is) I knaw your maieftie is wyſe, and will wy my willing hairt to do your maieftie ſeruice, withe the malife and numer of my fois. I confidder with my ſelfe thair is no remaneing heire to me, ſeing I uill be forſed to parrell your maiefteis fauour, or then to ſuffer bothe ſchame and ſkethe, quhilk is hard to ane nobill hairt. God of his merſie grant me paſiens to I heire from your maieftie, and knaw your will. I moſt humblie bege at your maiefteis moſt graſius hands, not for enny thing that is in me, nor enny merit that euer I haife deferued, or is abille for to deferue; bot for Godis cauſe lat me haife ane juſt tryell and juſtife, ſo to your maiefteis moſt admirabille wiſdome will tak ſuche ordoure, that according to your maiefteis pleaſſoare, and my good intentione, I haif occatioune to liue in peace. I tak my liue, withe all hu-

militie, wifhing 3our maieftie many and happie dayis, withe all contentment that 3our awine hairt wald wifhe. I fall euer remane

3oure Maiefteis moft houmille feruand to the deithe,

CAITHNES.\*

Caftill Sinclair, 26 Januar 1616.

To the King his moft Sacred and  
Excellent Maieftie.

CLX.—THE COUNTESS OF EGLINTOUN TO [MRS MURRAY?]

1616.

MY DEARE AND LOUING BROTHER,†

I did refeauue your kynd and wealkom letter from Sir Daued Morray, which did infinitlie content me boeth by the pleafing newis of her maiefties good helth, and her fingullar fauour fhowed to you in this fullich falling out of Sumerfyds with you, to his oune grit difgrace, which hes med him fo heated of thofs hear that ar bound to you, and knowes your trew worth and his fallfhoud, that if ther war non but your feruant my houfband, he wold, if it war exceptable to you and nefficer, vndertak to pruf him ane erand lyare in that he wret to you, and meffage fent with that vngret fullich coufing of yours, Herie Gib.‡ I long now to hear what fatifffacione is med vnto her maieftie and you. I pray God increfs her gritnefs with the king, and eftimacione and loue of the piple, with

\* George, fifth Earl of Caithness. He died in 1643, aged 78. A worthless nobleman, even for those times. His base betrayal of the unfortunate Lord Maxwell is an indelible stain on his memory.

† So in the original, but the letter is evidently addressed to the lady of John Murray.

‡ It may be inferred, from the strong language used against Somerset, that the favourite was then tottering. This letter was probably written early in the year 1616, as Somerset and his infamous wife were brought to trial on the 24th of May in that year.

ane long and hapie raing ouer ws. I was mor then defyrous to haue hard the fertantie of thes things from you, and especialie conferring your owne helth, which I pray God may be good, and I doubt not of your wealfear vther ways, but I protest your fiklines, when I hard it, did mor griue me then yee can imagine, and I was neuer content till ye wret to me of your better helth: God of his merisie increfs it whilest I liue. As conferring thos particulars yee defyred me, I haue bein courious for your fateffactione to tray them, and fyndis that my Lord Ab[ernethy?] dois esteim him self bound to my Lord Chamberland \* for no thing but fear wordes, and thinkis him proud and feclefs; and I haue this out of his owne moueth, that he could haue found in his hert to haue foughtin him in your qwarell. Boeth hee and Sir Wiliam Setoun did much prefs your good interteanment at your owne hous, and kyndnes to me. We haue bein all at Jhon Achamutis† wading to Sir Wiliams dochter, wher yee was oftin remember'd. As for my Lord B. hopes they ar but fmall, as I euer doubted. It was thoght that Sir James Stewart, now Lord Oc[hiltree]‡ did put him in hop the chamberland wold doe much for him, and when he found himself defeu'd at his coming to court, I think he was affhamed to enter with you, in respect he did not creue your opunione nor your housbands in this vp coming; but as I did expect, he rewis it. I pray you lat me know what is don betwext your housband and Louchinvar§ conferring thos lands he hes in wadfet in Loudiane, for Louchinwar gaue it out that ye had agried with him for his right, but I remember ye med me once diffuad my sifter and her housband to giue ther consent to him, so I can not think ye ar agried, but if it might content you or your housband, they wold giue it to your self, but not to him; so I expect to hear from you conferring those matteres.

Now, dear brother, I can not omit to giue you thanks of the infinit

\* Earl of Somerset.

† John Auchmootie, Groom of the Bedchamber, afterwards knighted.

‡ Upon the 9th of June 1615, Sir James Stewart of Killeith obtained a charter to the lands and barony of Ochiltree. Wood's Douglas, vol. ii. p. 329.

§ Sir Robert Gordon of Lochinvar. He married Lady Isabel Ruthven, daughter of the Earl of Gowrie, by whom he had John, created, in 1633, Viscount Kenmure and Lord Lochinvar.

fauouris boeth you and your worthie housband at all ocaſionis ſchowis to me and my housband; and now in haueing ſuch ane car at my Lord Glenkern, got no thing don in our preiougice. Ther was ane letter procur'd from his maieſtie to my lord, in fauours of the Lerd of Eakat, which he hes ſent the anſur of to your housband to preſent to his maieſtie, with the trew informacione of the eſteat of that erand; and I moſt intret you to inſiſt that he will haue ane care that his maieſtie does not belieue anie wrong informacione of our vnfriends. My lord hes his ſeruice remember'd vnto you, as to her whom he thinks himſelf mor bound vnto then he is able to requyt: Boith he and I am aſſhamed that as yet we haue in no meſour but good will requyted the infinit obligacie we owe you; but I wiſh we may liue no longer if yee haue not full powar to comand ws in what is in our pouar to pleſour you and your housband, whois imploymentis we long for. I will ſay no mor, but hopes ye will do it ſhortlie; as I wiſh it to be alſo trew that my Lord of Skun hes givet Fakland to you alredie, but I pray you lat me hear of it from your ſelf, which will mak me haue the greter deſyre to liue and ſie you ther as I wiſh. My good Ladie Mar, preſſed be God, growis ſtronger the neirer her tyme aproches. Her ſonne, my Lord Bouchan,\* and the Errell of Routhous,† beifs boeth wadet this nixt wiek to their young brydes. God giue them much ioye. My Ladie Erſkins dochter is deperted this lyf, but groues fat herſelf. Your ſonnes, Hew and Henrie, is in good helthe, thanks to God, and I truſt ſhall be men to ſerue you, and efter Mer-timeſ I expect yee will pray for me, that I may bring fureth this chyld, and liue to deferue your innumerable kyndneſes; but houſoeuer, ye

\* James, eldeſt ſon of the ſecond marriage between John ſeventh Earl of Mar and Lady Stewart, married Mary, Counteſſ of Buchan in her own right, and thereupon he aſſumed the title of Earl. On the reſignation of his wife, a royal charter of the earldom was, 22d March 1617, granted to the counteſſ and her husband, in conjunct fee and liferent, and to the longeſt liver of them, and the heirs-male of their marriage, whom failing, to the neareſt lawful heirs-male and assignees whatſoeuer of the ſaid James Earl of Buchan.

† John fifth Earl of Rothes, whoſe *History of the Church* was recently printed as a contribution to the Bannatyne Club, married Lady Ann Erſkine, ſiſter of Lord Buchan, and ſecond daughter of John Earl of Mar. He died 2d May 1640.



shall neer show fauour to anie that boeth in lyf and death shall trewlier  
reft

Yours most fathfulie affectionat  
euerie way,

ANNA C. EGLINTOUN.\*

My ladie, my good mother, remembers her louing dewtie vnto you and  
to your housband.

CLXL.—THE EARL OF LOTHIAN TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 10, 1616.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERANE,

I reffeaut your maiesties lettre, beiring that as your ma-  
iestie wes gratiouſlie pleiſit to grant your remiſſioun to Johnneſtounburne,  
fo your maieſtie wald wiſche that your clementce wer extendit towardis  
his eſtait; and thairfoir defyreing me, that theſe landis whilk I poſſes be  
his forfaytour ſould be reſtoirit bak vnto him, he giueing vnto me fuche  
ſatiſſactioun as my vmquhile father offerit to haue acceptit. As in all  
dew ſubmiſſioun and reuerence, I acknawledge myſelf bundin to acquieſce  
in eurie thing to your gracious maieſties will and pleaſour, feing nothing  
can proceid frome your maieſtie bot that whilk is weill groundit vpoun  
infallible reaſoneis of equitie and gude conſcience, fo, laying aſyde all  
priuate conſideratioun whilk I micht haue pretendit on that foirfeytour,  
as being diſponit vnto me be your ſacred maieſtie, in remembrance of

\* Lady Anne Livingstone, eldeſt daughter of Alexander firſt Earl of Linlithgow, and wife of Alexander  
ſixth Earl of Eglintoun. She died November 1632. This letter has no addreſs, but was probably written  
to the wife of John Murray.

fum zeiris feruice and attendence vpoun your maieſtie, I wes content to enter in a freindlie commoning with him. And firſt, I vrgeit that poynt mentionat in your maieſties lettre, anent the condition paſt betwixt my father and him, being reſoluit yf it had bene cleirit to haue gevin vnto your maieſtie ſatiffactioun thairin, bot he wes nocht abill to qualifie nor inſtruct ony ſuche condition; and he haueing failzeit in this, I proponit vnto him the judgement of indifferent freindis, quhilk wes acceptit; bot theſe quhilkis wer for him floode ſo preceiſlie vpoun his richt, whilk wes befor his forfeytour that thay ſufferit the ſubmiſſioun to deſert; as more particularlie the berare heiroy, Sir Williame Balfour, who wes one of the commoneris, will informe your maieſtie, in eurie circumſtance, to quhois relatioun I refer the ſame. And ſo, humblie beſeiking your ſacred maieſtie nocht to harken to the reporte of my pairtye, bot to think of me as of one who in ſinceritie of trew affectioun, with all ſubmiſſiue obedience, ſalbe willing and reddie, with the beſt of my indevoiris, to ſerue your maieſtie in what I am abill to do, I end with my hartye and humbill prayeris vnto God for the lang continwance of your graceis moſt bliffit and happie regne, and I do reſt for euir

Your Maieſties moſt humbill and  
obedient ſeruitour,

LOTHIANE.\*

Newbottill, the tent of Aprile 1616.

To the King his moſt ſacred and  
excellent Maieſtie.

\* Robert, ſecond Earl of Lothian, ſucceeded his father, Mark, the firſt Earl, in 1609, and died 15th July 1624.

## CLXII.—LORD MELVILLE TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 1616.

IT MAY PLEIS 3OUR MAIESTIE,

3our gracious fauour confranis me to tak the bauldnes, humblie wpone my knees, to give 3our hienes most humble thankis for the monye benefeittis I haif refaut of 3our maiesteis liberalitie, and not the les of my absence frome 3our maiestie thir ten 3eiris past. It hes pleasit 3our maiestie to remember me with moir fauour in honoring me with the name of ane barroun, then I can deserue; quhilk mowis me to be so far obleift in affectioun and loue to 3our maiesteis seruice and pleafour, as to omit no occasioun quhairin I may gif pruiiff of my fidelitie. At my last departing frome 3our maiestie, it pleasit 3our maiestie to command me to aduerteise 3our hienes of the estait of this cuntrie, quhilk hes beine in gret quyetnes, and 3our subiects maist loving to obey all 3our maiesteis directiounes. And at this present, haiffing sua guid occasioun to mak 3our maiestie aduerteifment of our happie estait and gouernement, I vill forbear the wayne byward, quhilk men of my age is accustumat to utter, quhilk in effect is to praise the dayis and 3earis bypast, and the present to be eiwill; albeit the treuth is, I haue continowit longer in 3our maiesteis and princleie predecefforis seruice, then ony parfoun this day living; and all the said 3earis we was destitut of the trew religioun, our cuntrie being full of barbarity, deidlie fedis, and opprefiounes. Since the tyme 3our maiestie tuik the manymment of the effairis of 3our princleie dominiounes in 3our awne hand, all 3our hyenes cuntreis hes beine peaceible and quyet; and speciallie this cuntrie, quhair the trew religioun fluriffis, and iustice sua veill ministrat be 3our electioun of 3our faithfull officiaris, as I may be bauld to affirme, that no cuntrie is in ane mair happie estait, and hes bettir occasioun to be thankfull to

God, and faithfull to your maiestie. Thair is sic loue borne to your maiestie, as your officiaris stryves amongis thame selffis quho fall do best, being presentlie in hand to decoir all deformiteis in this cuntrie that hes beine ouerseine in tymes past, and speciallie your maiesteis houffis, and the Castell off Edinbrughe sau weill orderit, as I hoipe it salbe to your maiesteis guid contentment; and the present officiar in the thesaurie\* verrie panefull and diligent in repairing the rest of your houffis, quho omittis no occasioun to put all the rest to the same poynt. Haiffing tane the bauldnes to be so tedious to your maiestie, efter I kyffit your maiesteis hand, I humblie tak my leiff, praying God to grant your maiestie monie long and happie dayis, in quhais protectioun I commit your maiestie.

Your Maiesteis most humble and obedient subiect  
and seruitour,

R<sup>t</sup>. MELVILL.†

To the Kingis Maiestie of Great Brytane.

CLXIII.—FRANCIS, TITULAR EARL OF BOTHWELL, TO KING JAMES VI.  
MAY 26, 1616.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERANE,

The heighe benefite laitlie granted to me be your maiestie, in granting me acces to your sacred prefence, being the thesaure incomparable; as also the former favour in the purches of my wyfe (being, according to the coustume of all other daft youthes, than the first of my

\* Sir Gideon Murray.

† There is no date to this letter, but it must have been written about the time the patent was passing the seals, creating Sir Robert Lord Melville.

vishes), hes emboldened me, with a few lynes, in all submission and humilitie, to giue your maiestie, so gracious a fouerane, most hartie and humble thanks for both, that hes so gratiouſlie overſhaddoued me with ſo great and fauorable benefitis, and that of free grace, and but any my merite, being the poore diſtreſſed ſone of ane vnhappie father, your owne creature, inriched with fauour, honor, credite, and all other felicitie, abowe his or any other ſubiects merite: ay, and quhile his brutiſhe, hay-nous, and deteſtable defection, and ſo juſtlie deſervand to himſelf and all his poſteritie tenfold more heaueie and ſharpe afflictionnes and puniſhment then ewer befell ws; whairin I haue no other meaſour to beg, bot willinglie to ſuſtene and indure ſo mony as your moſt excellent maieſtie pleaſſis to inioyne, being the prince leiſand who beſt knowis what of law, reaſſone, equitie or conſcience, aught to be done. I haue nothing to preſent to your maieſtie bot a loyall hart, a faith onſpotted, placing my being in your maieſties ſole fauour, and more willing, then to leiſ, to ſacrifice my lyfe at any occaſion in your maieſties ſervice. Moſt humble begand that your maieſtie wold be gratiouſlie pleaſed to eſtyme of me that your command ſalbe the rewill of my lyfe, no wher ellis fall I ſeik fauour. If any it fall pleas your ſacred maieſtie to beſtow, whatſoeuer be the meaſour thereof, I fall reſt and acquieſce thairat with contentment, and fall ſpend my hole ſtudie and cair to pleas, and nowayis offend your maieſtie, to my lyfis end. Humblie prayand the Eternall to grant bothe your maieſties, your childrene and poſteritie, all temporall and eternall felicitie,

Your Maieſties moſt humble and obedient ſeruiteur,

FRANCIS STEUART.\*

Seton, 26 Maij 1616.

To his moſt ſacred Maieſtie.

\* Eldeſt ſon of Francis Stewart, the turbulent Earl of Bothwell. He married Lady Isabella Seton, only daughter of Robert, firſt Earl of Winton. His ſon and heir, Charles, is ſaid to have been a trooper in the civil wars, and the prototype of Francis Bothwell, the daſhing cavalier, in *Old Mortality*. From the kirk-ſeſſion records of Perth, it appears that a ſon of his received alms as a pauper—a melancholy proof of the inſtability of human greatneſs.

## CLXIV.—THE EARL OF MONTROSE TO KING JAMES VI.

AUGUST 27, 1616.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR SACRED MAIESTIE,

As I did præsume to acquaint your hienes with the progres . . . . . of the Affemblie from Aberdein, so nou I doe with the finifching thair of, which (according to that happie fucces vhairwith God hes alwayis bliffed your maieftes most gracious æctionis) is concludit, with great contentment of all eftatis. The Marquis of Huntly keipitt the day apoyntit; vhaire itt vas aduyfitt that the archbifchopis, with the præfident and certane vtheris, fchould firft deall with him, to refolue his doubtis; lyke as, I did particularlie defyre him to remember your maieftes gracious fauour touardis him, and obey your hienes direktionis. He, efter fum difficulteis, condefenditt to cum before the Affemblie and giue fatisfaction, vhair the Archbifchop of Sanctandros did fo vyfelie moderat, that the Marquis gaue humble obedience, and the church receaued full contentment; and efter opin reading of thois thingis enacted, according to your maieftes direktion, and receauing of certen fpeciall citizenis of Aberdein fufpect of Poprie, and thair publick affenting to the particular Articles of the Confession of Faith etablifchitt at this Affemblie, the fam vas concluditt with generall applaufe, all praifing God, and praying for long continuance of your maieftes happie raing. As to my felf, altho I haue bein villing at this tym to difcharge that humble and faithfull deutie, which I am alwayis bund to perform in your maieftes feruice; zitt, the good fucces of all dois onlie proceed from your maieftes godlie, vyfe, and happie deffeingis, which the Lord fo vonderfullie prosperis, that ve, your maieftes faithfull feruandis, ar more and more encourgitt to proffrat our lyuis, for the aduancement of vhatfumeuer your maieftes ferwicis; lyk as, I doe particularlie acknauledge myfelf infinitlie tyed to

your maieſteis moſt gracious remembrance and truſt to me, which, in all humble and faithfull obedience, ſo long as I leive, I ſhall ſtudie to deferue, and ſhal be moſt readie to ſeall with my blood. Remitting the more particular relatione to the archbiſchopis, in all humilitie, I kiſs your hienes handis, praying God for the long continuance of your maieſteis prosperous eſtate and happie raining ouer vs,

Your Maieſteis moſt humble and obedient ſubiect  
and ſeruitor,

MONTROSE.\*

Newmontroſe, the 27 of Auguſt 1616.

To his moſt Sacred Maieſtie.

CLXV.—THE EARL OF HOME TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR.

DECEMBER 8, 1616.

MY LORD,

I heare, by my Lord Hambilton, that Frances Stewart has ſubmitted all his differences with all partes to the kinge, and that theare is a blanke left to bee filde up with my fonnes name; and that if it weare thought fit by my fonnes frendes, that he ſhoulde come in, that I ſhoulde aduartis your lordſhip, that his name might bee contaynde in the ſub-

\* John, fourth Earl of Montroſe, married Lady Mary Ruthven, eldeſt daughter of William, firſt Earl of Gowrie. He was the father of the celebrated Marquis of Montroſe. His lordſhip died 24th November 1626.

mishtjon. Trewly, my lord, I coulde haue wiht his parte of that bifnes had not byn to haue fetled, tel his yeayrs had giuen him tow underftande beter, that he might haue byn a dealer for his oune compofishtyon; but now I fee no remedey but it muft be ventred. God fende him finde as much fauer at the kinges handes as the reft. I haue writin to my Lord of Morton\* to feeke his opinion heare in, and if he thincke as I dow, then that he will fpeacke with your lordship, and that you will bee plefde to let his name bee put in. The great fauor that your lordship hathe euer fhowne to him in his prefence, I muft houmbly bege the continuance of in his abfence; and as I haue founde allready your lordships refpect and care of him to haue prefarued him from many inconuenentes, fo in that muft I refofe his fafety ftill to protect him fram the maney ingures of fo maney malifhtyus, unconftyonat peple, that are continewalley plotinge his hurt. For which he will be bounde with his utormoft indeuers to dow farues, and myfelfe to remayne,

Your Lordships trewly afectionat frende and feruant,

HOME.†

London, this 8 of December [1616?]

To the Right Honorabill my Lord  
Chanflor.

\* William, Earl of Morton, born 1582, served heir to his father Robert, 3d July 1605, and to his grandfather, 4th November 1606. He died in Orkney, where he had retired during the great civil war, 7th August 1648, in the 66th year of his age.

† From the writer mentioning that he had a son, he must have been Alexander, sixth Lord, and first Earl of Home. He died 5th April 1619. His son James, though twice married, had no issue by either of his wives, in consequence of which the titles, upon his death, in the month of February 1633, in virtue of the remainder to heirs-male whatsoever, devolved on Sir James Home of Coldingknows.



## CLXVI.—THE LORDS OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI

MARCH 14, 1617.

MOST GRATIOUS AND SACRED SOUERANE,

We reffaut your maieftis lettre tuitcheing that overtur and propofitioun maid vnto your maieftie, anent the making of linning cloathe in this kingdome in another foirt and maner nor formarlie hes bene wrought heir, and tuitcheing the making of goode and fufficient tyill for building and fclaitting of houffis at lowe raittis; whairin it wes your maieftis pleafour to crave our aduife and opinioun, yf the preuilege foght of your maieftie for this purpois myght importe any benefeit or preiudice vnto the cuntrie. As with all dew reuerence and moft humble thankis, we acknowlege your maieftis faderlie cair, and the refpectiue confideratioun whilk your maieftie hes ever had of the publiēt goode of this your maieftis kingdome, in being fo fpairing to yield to ony overturis and propofitionis of the natur and qualitie foirfaid, whill firft your maieftie commvnicat the fame vnto your maieftis counfall heir; whairin it becometh ws in all finceritie and efauldnes, without ony privat refpectis or confiderationis to prefent oure fimple and waik opinionis and iudgement vnto your facred maieftie. So, we haveing at lenthe conferrit, reafouned, and consultit vpoun the benefeit and inconuenientis whilk by the overtur foirfaid, and preuilege foght of your maieftie for that purpois, may refult to this kingdome, we do find the overtur and propofitioun foirfaid, alſueele anent the workeing of the cloathe, as of the tyill, in the forme and tennour as is confavit in your maieftis lettre to be neceffair and verye expedient to be imbraceit, and to importe the publiēt goode and benefeit of the kingdome, and that a preuilege for fome certane yeiris may be grantit to that effect, refpect being alwayes had to the terme of the preuilege, and that the fame be for fuche a reafounable ſpace as nouth

your maieſteis ſubieſtis haif iuſt caus of greif and complaynt, as being fruſtrat of the hoipis of thair awne labouris and traveillis in leirning of the ſaidis workis, nor yitt that the vndirtakaris of thir workis haif mater of grudge and miſcontentment, and ſo be diſcourageit to proſequute and follow oute the worke. And ſo, with oure humble and hairty prayeris vnto God, recommending your ſacred maieſtie, with all your royall progenye, vnto his diuyn and fatherlie proteſtioun, we reſt for ever

Your Maieſteis moſt humble and obedyent  
ſubieſtis and ſeruitouris,

SANCTANDROIS.  
BLANTYRE.  
A. ELPHINSTON.  
JO. PRESTOUN.  
ALMUSSAR.

GLENCAIRNE.  
WIGTOUN.  
ROSS.  
R. COKBURNE.  
CL[ERICU]S REG[ISTR]1.

Edinburgh, the xiiij day of Marche 1617.

To the King his moſt ſacred and excellent  
Maieſtie.

CLXVII.—ARTICLES GIVEN BY THE JUSTICES OF PEACE FOR ABERDEEN.  
[1617]?

ARTICLIS givine in be the Juſtices of Peace within the ſchirefdome  
of Aberdeine to the Lordis of his Maieſteis Secreit Counfall,  
for Reformatione of the Abufis following.

In the firſt, becaus their ar diveris vagabundis within the ſaid ſchiref-

dome, quha ar giltie of thiftis, pykrie, and robing, and vther fufpect perfones of thift, quhais punifhment and tryell is neglectit be the fhreffis, thairfor, the faidis Juftices of Peace cravis ane commiffione to be givine to thame to try and punifh fik perfones.

Item, becaus the faid fchirefdome is verie fpacious, and quhen any perfones ar apprehendit within the faid fchirefdome, be the faidis Juftices of Peace, quhais transportatione to the brught of Abirdeine, is verrie expensive, daingerus, and trubillfome to the faidis Juftices of Peace, thairfor, it is cravit that jeyollis and ward-houffis may be buildit be the faidis Juftices of Peace within evrie prefbetrie of the faid fchirefdome; and for that effect, that the half of the fynis may be allowit to the faidis Juftices of Peace for building thairof.

Item, becaus the clerkis, officeris, and remanent memberis of court will not exerce thair functionis without fwme reffonabill fatiffactione for thair paines, thairfor, it is cravit that ane compitent fie be modifeit, to be payit to thame of the firft and reddieft of the faidis fynis.

Item, becaus the faidis Juftices of Peace, haveing prefentit captives and malefactouris to the fchireff of Abirdeine his deputis, and to the proveft and bailleis of the faid brugh, thay refuife to accept thame af thair handis, thairfor, it is cravit that fwme expedient cours may be takine thairanent.

Item, becaus thair ar diveris parochines within the faid fchirefdome, quhilkhes no jeyoll or ward-hous; thairfor, it is cravit be the faidis Juftices of Peace, that thai may have power to ward the perfones to be takine be thame, within thair awin duelling houffis, quhill jeollis be buildit, or that the prifoneris may be convenientlie tranfportit.

Item, becaus the perfonis vnlawit be the Juftices of Peace will not willinglie mak payment of the fynis and vnlawis, it is thairfor cravit that

lettres of horning, poinding, and vtheris exe[cutoria]llis neceffair, may be direct vpon the aētis maid be the saidis Justices, for recoverie of payment thair of, and of the contrabutione to be imposit for susteinyng of the pair of the indigent perfonas.

Item, to remember to speik my Lord Chancellour that quhilk I am directit be tonge.

CLXVIII.—JAMES VI. TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

[JUNE 1617.]

IT coule not bot be verie greeuous vnto vs if the earnest desire wee haue longe had to vifite that our natiue and ancient kingdome of Scotlande, shoulde be mette at our arriual there, with anie vnwelcome coldenes of a number of our good subiectes in that contrie, and that by the occasion of a præiudged opinion in manie of our peoples hartes, grounded vpon false rumouris, eyther maliciouſlie or fooliſhlie ſpred anent the cauſes and erandes of our intention to repair thether at this time. Wee haue therefor thoughte it verie conuenient, for preuenting of this miſtaking, to make by theſe preſents, an ingenuous and ſincere profeſſion vnto you of the motiues inducing vs to reſolue vpon our journey thether at the time appointed. Firſt, wee are not aſhamed to confeſſe, that wee haue had theſe manie yeares a greate and naturall longing to ſee our natiue foyle and place of our birthe and breeding, and this ſalmond-like inſtincte of ouris hath reſtleſſie, both when wee wer awake, and manie times in our ſleepe, ſo ſtirred vp our thoughtes and bended our deſires to make a iorney thether, that wee can neuer reſt ſatiſfied till it ſhall pleaſe God that wee may accompliſh it; and this wee do, vpon our honour, proteſte to be the maine and

principall motiue of our intendit iorney. But vnto this desire of ouris, proceeding frome a naturall man, is joynd the care wee haue to discharge our kinglie office the time of our being there, and so to mak vse of our naturall affection, by applying that occasion to the discharge of our calling; wherein, firste, our greateste care shalbe to heare and giue redresse to such iuste complaintes, if anie there be, of our subiectes, as could not vtherwise be so well redrest withoute our owne prefence; and our nexte cair shal be to reforme anie such abuse or disorder, if wee shall finde anie, as could not be so well performed in our absence. As for making anie alterations or reformatiōs in the state of that gouernment, eyther ecclesiasticall or ciuile, it is trew wee wilbe glad that by our prefence as manie thingis tending to good as may be, may haue their setling in the time of our being there, but we wish not onlie you, who, by your place, ar best acquaynted with our intentionis, but all our good subiectes of whatsoeuer degree, to haue that settled confidence in our honestie and discretion, that wee will not so much as wish anie thing to be done there, which shall not tende to the glorie of God and the well of that commonwealth, and all our good subiectis therein. As also, there may be diuers thinges, which, although wee mighte iustlie with them, yet may ther be so manie impedimentis and lettes to croffe them, that although, in our conscience and honestie, wee might auow them to be good, yet in our discretion we wold be loth to trouble ourselfe and our good subiectes with them at this time, except they mighte aswell proue to the generall liking and applause of our people, as to the benefite and well of the commonwealth. Wee ar therefor hereby earnestlie to desire you, that yee will, not onlie for your oune partes, harbour no preiudged conceapte of our intention vpon the ground of these idle rumouris, bot also make this our sincer declaration come to the eares of our other good subiectes, [that] wee may haue conforte of such a ioyfull meeting there with our people, as wee for our parte shall euer deferue. To conclude, wee pray you to reste assured that our intention is so to behaue ourselfe, the time of our being there, as euerie one shall see that our care shall not be wanting to do asmuch good as wee can, and yet so to carie ourselfe, as our actions

shalbe accompanied with the applause and hearty consente of all our good people.

[Indorfed :]

Lettre dited by his Maiestie felfe to  
the Counsell, before his going to  
Scotland.

CLXIX.—SIR GIDEON MURRAY TO KING JAMES VI.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1617.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

As I did oftymes importune your maiestie at your being heir, by dealing with your hienes that no fauor might be granted to Symon Scott of Bonyngtoun, himself, his breither and complices, for the cruell slaughte of one of the sones of Walter Scott of Harden,\* so will I now, in most humble maner, craue pardone to put your heines in remembrance thair of. I know they haue sent vp to folicit the buffines, and ar put in houe, by the moyane of thair freindis thair, to get a pardone, at leift to procurir the gift of thair lifrentis to be disponit to fume freind for thair behoue, whiche is almost equiualent to a pardon. Geue they wer apprehendit and broght to thair puneschment, it wer not amisse to dispone thair escheatis and lyfrentis in fauoris of thair freindis and childering; and counonlie that cours is keiped when malefactoris are punesched for thair faultis; but fuche as committ slaughte, and ar maid rebelles for the same, thair escheates and lyfrentis vles alwyse to be disponed to the partie that hes gottin the herme, and so is maid a part of thair punesch-

\* In October 1616, "Walter Scot, second sone to Harden, was creully murdered by Scot, Laird of Boniton, and hes brother; the murtherers escaped."

ment. This cours haue I alwyse keped in your maiesteis seruice, and neuer suffered the escheat of a malefactour that escheaped punisshment to pas in his fauoris. I procured your hienes hand to a signatour of that lyfrent in fauoris of my sone-in-law, who is brother to the persone that wes killed. Geue your maiestie wilbe pleased that I geue it him to be put throw, anie suit to be maid in fauoris of the malefactoris may be refused with the better reafone, that your hienes haue maid grant thair of already. Whairanent I humblie intreat the significatione of your maiesteis plesour, and will end with earnest and feruent prayeris for your hienes longe preferuatiōe in all healthe and happienes.

Your sacred Maiesteis most humble and  
faithfull seruand,

G. MURRAY.

Edinbrought, 9 of September 1617.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

CLXX.—THE REVEREND PATRICK GALLOWAY TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 5, 1617.

PLEASE YOUR GRACIOUS MAIESTIE,

I receavid your maiesties letter, schowing the repoirtis made of me to your maiestie be suche persons, and willing and requyreing me, vnder my hand, to certifie your maiestie of my mind in these Articles, which your maiestie desyred to be receavid into this Church.

As to the reporteris, certanelie I admire what could haue moved thame to repoir to your maiestie that which was passed in priuat betuix ws;

for, ſpeaking with thame of ſome particulares, I ſchew to thame ſimply my opinione, to know thair judgement thairin ; bot I neuer ſaid to any of thame that ather I was vnrefolued, or throughly reſolued, into theſe Articles, bot was to informe myſelf in tyme of euerie poynt of thame, and to do according to my knowledge to informe otheris. And as to my awin mynd in euerie one of theſe Articles, this is it, Ser ; bot with moſt humble proteſtatioune :—

I. That I trewly fett down to your maieſtie what I think of thame, being readie, vpon better informatione frome your maieſtie, to amend what is amiſſe.

II. That this is my awin privat opinione keepit with myſelf, and yit vncommunicat to any man, and ſend to your maieſtie firſt to vndergoe your maieſties cenſure.

III. That what I wryte, it is frome a afald mynd, readie to help forward your ſervice, ſo far as my knowledge and credite may reache ; and thairfoir wold be the more favourablie accepted, and able to procure of your maieſtie, that, as your maieſtie hath done before to me, ſo your maieſtie wold put to your hand to pen, and ſend me your particular informatione and warrand of theſe Articles, which I may embrace and follow ; for thay ar Articles which I neuer thought neceſſar to tak paines in to know thame, till I hard your maieſtie propone thame as thought meete be your maieſtie to be embraced be ws.

I. As to the firſt Article, of Confirmatione: I think it is ſufficiently fett down in the laſt General Aſſembly at Aberdeene, and needis no more bot to be put in practice.

II. As to the nixt Article, of Holy Dayis: of Chriſt our Saviouris natiuite, paſſione, reſurrectione, aſcenſione, and comming of the Holy Spirite, to be keepid with preaching, prayar, prayſe, &c., I think it the more indifferent, becauſe I reide that Auguſtine comptis it among apoſto-



lik traditions, and observid be all kirkis, Lib. Epist. 118; and fundry Reformid Kirkis vses it, both in Germany and Swifferland, as thair dominicall sermons in these dayis printed testifies.

Bot with us the same will seeme more hard to be embraced; becaus hitherto we have beene frie of thame, keeping only the Lordis day, and on it preaching (I am assured) sufficientlie of Christ's nativitie, passion, resurrection, and ascension, and coming of the Haly Spirit, almost in all our sermons; and it will be hard to sett vp a weeke day for thame whilk will not be abused be superstition and surfet; and the pastors will be more busied in declameing against abuses, nor in preaching of Christs gospel. I schew in my priuat talking with Doctor Young, that giue when these dayis fell on a weeke day, thay sould be referrid to the nixt Lordis day (as the Councell of Nice concludit concerning the day of the celebratione of the Lordis Supper), and the ministrie ordayned to change thair ordinary textis, and mak that the subiect of thair doctrine that day, it wold appeare that your maiesties desyre wer reasonably satisfied.

III. As to the thrid Article, of Baptisme, to be ministred at all tymes to these that craifes it: I think it sould be graunted; and betuix sunne and sunne, in day time, to be denyed to nane quho is a knowin honest persone of that flocke. Bot to graunt baptisme in priuat houses, and vnder silence of night, to such as craife it (if this be the Articles meaning), wer to confirme the opinione of absolute necessitie of baptisme, which is dangerous, and to doe as our Church wer vnder persecutione; when as we inioy pace vnder your gracious maiestie to doe the workis of the ministrie in publict, in day light, and at all occasions.

IIII. As to the ferd Article, of the celebratione of the Lords Supper in priuat houses, to persons craveing it: I think it may be graunted, bot not absolutly (for then euerie wyfe most haue it before she come to church from her chyld bed, and euerie headach mvst haue the communion before it come to the calfay, and that graunted to one, most be commoun to otheris, or the pastor salbe exlamed on as a respecter of persons, in end, the sacrament fall become of so small accompt in

publi&t, as few fall be had to celebrat the remembrance of the Lordis dead, in the publi&t assemblies of the Church, whairupon arose, of old, the celebratioune of priuat meffis), bot according to that instance which I hard your maiestie give of your old seruant, Johne Bog, that is, if ane knawin honest man, vpright in the religioun, haue keepid house or bed for a yeere or tuo, and is vnable through age and seeknes to refort to the church, then he earnestlie craising it for the confirmatione of his fayth, in the assurance of the remission of his synns and lyfe euerlasting, I think it might be graunted to him, some reasonable number of his honest neighbouris accompanying him thairat, with his minister.

V. As to the fyft Article, of receaving the Lordis Supper kneeling : Trewlie, Ser, I wolde faine be informed of your maiestie, how I might doe it myself? how I might informe otheris to doe so? and how, be reafone, I might meete and mend otheris who ar of contrary mynd? And as for my awin opinione heerin, I think as yit that the best forme of taking it is, as we do, fitting; becaus, first, Christ our Lord did so: he had a table, Luk. 22. 21; and, vers 14, sat down with the tuelf to celebrat the supper; and Christis actione shold be our institutione. And the Apostles rule is, 1 Cor. 11. 1, “ Be the followaris of me as I am of Christ;” and, vers 23, “ I haue receavid of the Lord that which I haue delyverid vnto yow;” so following simply the practise of the Lord in the celebratioun of the sacrament.

Nixt, prayar and prayse going immediatly before the action, and following immediatly after the action, with kneeling: it appearis most simply that the action itself shold be according to the custome vsed in such actions, and that is, to eate and drink fitting, and as communicantis with our Lord, to rejoyse with him at his table.

Thridly, The Churches Apostolik, and such as followid after thame, till the yere 1215, neuer vsed, as I can reid, kneeling at the receaving of the communion, till Pope Innocentius 3, at Lateran, decreed transsubstan-

tiatione of the elementis in the Sacrament; and after him Pope Honorius 3, the yeere 1220, decreed that the elementis fould be lifted vp be the preeft, adored be the people, and keepid in a box, and on the box fould be this infcriptioun:—

“Hic Deum adora: item flecte genu: pixis hic venerabilis hospite Chrifto.”

And Doctour Sutliue, a learnid and grave divine, contra Bellarminum de Ceremoniis Miſſæ, fayis, fol. 99, 100, 101, “Omnes hæ ceremoniæ ex recentiorum Miſſalium formulis authoritatem et originem habent.” Then he enumberis amongis the reſt, “Et coram eis genuflexiones.

“Item nuſquam certe legimus genua flectenda eſſa coram Sacramento, niſi in miſſalibus et libris ritualibus.

“Item nihil turpius quam genua coram Sacramento flectere.

“Item nuſquam legimus inclinationem corporis et genuum incurvationem coram Sacramento indicium eſſe; humilitatis aut aliquos viros ſanctos aut pios ſe coram Sacramento panis aut calicis dominici vel corpora ſua inclinaffe.”

And Bellarmine, a man as ſeemis mightie for tranſſubſtantiatione, wreittis, lib. 4. cap. 30, “De Euchariftia melius diſcunt rudiores in Euchariftiæ Sacramento vere eſſe Chriſtum præſentem; et proinde falſam eſſe hæreticorum doct̃rinam ex publica adoratione totius eccleſiæ, et honore illo eximio qui huic Sacramento exhibetur, quam ex multis concionibus.” And thairfoir in another place he ſayis, “Non poteſt carere ſuſpicionem idolatriæ capere euchariftiam genuflexione, niſi concedatur tranſſubſtantiat̃io.”

Thus, I haue ſimply obeyed your majeſties command, in ſetting doun my opinioun of theſe Articles, which I beſeech your majeſtie to accept in good pairt, and to amend whair any thing is amiſſe, be your loveing informatione; remembering how, according to knowledge and abilitie, I have followid your maieſtie before, and is now als readie to follow as euer I was (whatſoeuer repoirtis be made of me); and ſall, Godwilling, according to my knowledge, follow the ſame courſe to the end; and

thairfoir needis bot informatione and confirmatione, that I may proceed, quhich nowe I attend.

Pardone me now, Ser, to renew my requeast for your maiesties præcept to your thesaurer to pas my sonns gift, which so lovingly your maiesties self hath passèd ; and to beseeche your maiestie, in any reportis that fall be made of me, to keepe ane eare free for my ansure, whilk will incourage me to goe on in the service of so loving a maister. So, humblie taking my leefe, I recommend your maiesties sacred persone, familie and estate, to the blessing and protectioun of God. Frome Edinburgh, this 5 off Nouember, the day of your maiesties most gracious delyuerance from the gunnpoulder treasone of conspyred Papists, 1617.

Your Maiesties awine old and trustie feruitour,

M<sup>r</sup> P. GALLOWAY.

[Indorfed:]

To his Maiestie.

M<sup>r</sup> Patrik Galloway his judgment  
anent the 5 Articles of Perth.

5 Novemb. 1617.

CLXXI.—OLIVER ST JOHN TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 25, 1617.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENT MAIESTIE,

This noble man, the Lord Cromwell,\* beinge desirous to kisse your maiesties princelie handes, desires to go accompanied with my letters,

\* Thomas fourth Lord Cromwell, and great-grandson of the celebrated Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, beheaded by Henry VIII. in the year 1540. This nobleman was in 1625 created Viscount Lecale, and in

which I could not denye vnto him, findinge his caryadge here to be very noble, and himselfe apte and likely to live to be a worthie fervant to your maiestie. He hath humblie besought, that I would make knowne vnto your maiestie his conformitye to your maiesties princely directiounes, in a controversie concerning Mr Alexander Julius and Adam Abercromney, wherein, although it was manifest that the state the late Lord Cromwell, his father, had in those landes, was such as he could not passe them away without doinge wronge to his sonne, and that by the lawe he was not compellable to confirme the graunt that his father had made to Mr Julius and Abercromney; yet, in obedience of your maiesties princelie pleasure, he hath assured vnto them a free-farme in those landes, to his hinderance of thirtie or fortie poundis a yeare of his inheritance. Thus much, at his humble desire, I haue presumed to relate to your sacred maiestie, that his promptnes to obeye your maiestie may appeare; leauinge him and his other occasions to your most royall pleasure. Humbly beseechinge the Almighty to bleesse your sacred maiestie with longe life, and a prosperous reigne over vs,

Your Maiesties humble and obedient subiecte  
and fervant,

OL. ST. JOHN.\*

Dublin, the xxv<sup>th</sup> of Nouember  
1617.

To the Kinges most Sacred Maiestie.

1644 Earl of Ardglass in Ireland, where his property was situated, his father having sold all his English estates. He died in 1653. The Irish Earldom and Viscountcy became extinct by the death of Vere Essex, seventh Baron Cromwell, and fourth Earl of Ardglass, without issue male, upon the 26th November 1687. The English Barony has remained dormant.

\* Succeeded his father as fourth Lord St John in 1618, and was created, December 28, 1624, Earl of Bolingbroke.

CLXXII.—ANNE COUNTESS OF ARGYLL\* TO JOHN MURRAY.

[1617?]

SER,

You shal vnderstand ther is on James Ratrey, who now is in your farvies, that onc was in myne, tel his falsevood pot him awaye. I will now speke it, altho euer sinc, I have byn content to consele it, in hope of amendment. Ther is on Dromand, who now is his wife, that had in trvst and keepinge of myne, fundrye thinges to the valve of five hvndreth povnd or ther aboutis. After shee knew of my determynacion in goinge to Scotland, shee and hee togeather, secretyly by nyght, convayed the sayd goods ovt of my hovse, and had not byn scarce a fortnyght ther bot shee mayd herselfe an occasion, by her evel tonge, to com hear agayn. Within fev wiekes after, my lord sent a gentelman with money to paye sum depts he was owinge in London. Shee and her hvsband would not let the gentelman paye the money, bot would have it in their ovne hand, and went to every credetor and prsuaded them it was but desprat deapt, and would haue had them taken, sum halfe, sum a quarter of ther money, to my lordes great dishonor. If you dout of this, Sir, I shal fend the men themselues to testyfie it. The same gentelman I desired to reseve her charge, but shee refvsed it, and answred she would keepe it tel my owne cominge, which shee thoughte would never haue byn: But when shee sa mee come, and that shee could get no oather excvse, shee sayd shee with hild them for deapt I was owinge her. I desired to know for what: but shee mayd a byl to mee which she movght have byn shure non would have harkend to aboue the age of twlve in that fashion. What I myght have dun of my owne good will, mor then her defart, after the

\* There is no date either to this or the succeeding letter. The writer, Anne, daughter of Sir William Cornwallis of Brome, was the second wife of Archibald Earl of Argyle, who entered the service of Philip III. of Spain, and became a Roman Catholic in 1618, much to the vexation of his relatives. His Lady was a Papist herself, and made him a convert. He did not return to England till 1638, in which year he died at London, aged about 62.

delivrie of my thinges, fhee myght haue put to my owne cortefye, if theyr meninge had not byn to have kepte them ffile; but that cannot be as longe as ther is a kinge and laves in the cuntrey. I will trvble you, Ser, no fvrther with my tedyvs leater, whos end is to tel you the trvth, fearinge you should have byn abvfed by falfe informacion, which I desire non fheuld bee that I wifh al honor and hapynes to, as on that fhall ever remayn

Your louinge frind to difpofe of,

A. ARGYLE.

To my verae good frind, Mr<sup>e</sup> Morey,  
of his Magiftyes Bed Chamber.

CLXXIII.—THE COUNTESS OF ARGYLE TO JOHN MURRAY.

[1617 ?]

SER,

I make no question, knowinge the trvth, that you would eather mayntayne him or anye oather in fo vild a accion; but knowinge of ould the fkope of falnes and difemulacion of his tonge hath mayd mee this fare to trubuel you. You desired, Ser, by your leter, to vnderftand further of his behavyore in the tyme he was with my lord. It wear vn-femlye to wright every thinge in partikiler what hee dyd; but this fare I will faye, that what a man could do in theft, he left not vndune. Hee had for a while the kepinge of my lordes purfe, but his falfwod in that extended fo fare, that it was foon perfeved halfe a year after his goinge awaye, my lord was faine to paye thinges hee had taken in troft, which my lord befor had payd redye money to him for. When thefe greter

trickes fayld him, hee would not fticke to pilfer anye thinge hee could conveniently. Onc I toke him with the maner, and mayd him laye it downe agayne. I haue hard diueres report of his fteling money out of the pocketes, and that they haue taken him with the maner, but I will fpeke nothinge of fartentye but that which I haue fene and knowes my felfe vpon my chargies; yet, altho on would thinke it were to much for on to beare patiently, yet the fhowe of his fayned repentanc was fo great, that I proteft, Ser, I neuer dyd fo mvch as reuele it to anye, tel now this laft vileny of his hath mayd mee thinke I haue confeled it to longe. For anye thinge, Ser, that hath latly hapned, this berar, who hath byne witnes to moft part of there procidinges, can tel, if you plefe to give him leue, the trvth: he beares a honeft nam. I hope he fhall not lye in anye thing. So, I will no longer, Ser, be trubelfom to you to explainn the great ronge I haue refused, which I am fhur is vmatchabel in that kinde, and leue al to your nobvel and wife confederation, and fhall now and euer remayne

Your moft afhured frind to despoze of,

A. ARGYLL.

To my afhured frinde, Mr Murey, of  
his Magiftys Bed Chamber.

CLXXIV.—SIR JAMES LUNDIE TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 8, 1618.

MOST GRACIOUS SOUERANE,

It may pleas your moft excellent maieftie, vmquhile King  
Williame, of worthie memorie, for the lufe wiche he caryit towardis his



fone naturall, my prediceffour, callit Sir Robert,\* thairefter callit Sir Robert of Lundy be King Alexander the Second, gaue all and hailt the barony of Lundy, of whome the Lairdis of Lundy hes linialie descendit, as oure charteris and evidentis dois record; and evir fince the dayis of King Williame, be the fpace of foure hundreth, fyftie and fyve yeiris, we haue bene in peciable poffeffioun of our awin teindis, quhill now laitlie, that the Laird of Largo hes procurit the kirk of Largo, erectit in ane laick patronage, quha intendis moft rigoroufflie to leid oure teindis: albeit that I haue caufit deall with him thir fevin yeiris bigane for ane new tak of oure awin teindis, quhairunto he will nawayis condifcend be ony perfuafioun or reafonable offer; bot hes intendit actioun aganis ws for fpoliatioun thairof, whairintill be the rigour of law he is liklie to prevale. The hail Senatouris of your maiefties Colledge of Juftice thinkis it agreble with reafon and confcience that we fuld ftill continew in poffeffioun of our awin teindis, feing we ar fa lang kyndlie takifmen and poffeffouris thairof; and I am fullie refolvit that thair is no mean to hold me in poffeffioun of the faidis teindis, bot that it wald pleas your moft excellent maieftie to direct ane lettre to the Lordis of your hienes College of Juftice, to caus ws both fubmitt that mater to thame, anent quhat takis the Laird of Largo fall giue of our awin teindis, and quhat fall be gevin thairfoir. This I am moft willing to do. It is weill knowin to your maieftie quhat querrellis and deidlie feidis hes followit vpoun rigorous teinding within your hienes kingdome of Scotland, whiche hes bene the ruine of mony houfes thairof. Moft humlie, thairfoir, befeiking your gracious maieftie to prevent ws be your hienes letter to the Lordis of your maiefties College of Juftice, thus in all humilitie expecting your

\* Sir George Mackenzie, in his MS. Genealogical Collections, observes, in reference to the Laird of Lundy, "His predecessor was Robert de Lunden, naturall son to King William, so surnamed because begotten within the city of London, in England, as some say, or from their lands in Fyfe, which he got from the King, as others [say]. I haue sein him frequently designed by that King, amongst the witnesses in his chartours, 'Roberto de London, filio nostro,' and in ane chartour by King William to the Erle of Stratherne, amongst the witnesses, Joanne de Londonij. I haue sein also ane charter quherin King William gives Roberto de London, filio nostro, the Foresterie of Tith, near Dunfermling, which thereafter the said Robert giues to the abbacy, and designs himself filius Regis Scotiæ."

maiesties moſt gracious will and interceſſioun in this point, I moſt hum-  
lie tak myleve, kiſſing, with all reverence and humilitie, your moſt gracious  
hand.

Your Maiesties moſt humble and obedient  
ſubiect and ſervitour,

SR JAMES LUNDIE.

Edinburgh, the 8 of Aprile 1618.

To his moſt excellent Maiestie.

CLXXV.—HIS MAJESTY'S ANSWER TO THE COUNCIL.  
[1618?]

WHEREAS by your lettre vnto vs, yee make mention of the regrete that  
the magiſtrates of Edinburgh made anent this ordinance, and proclama-  
tion craued to be made that it ſhould not be lawfull to laden anie of the  
commodities of marchandife of that our kingdome in foreyne bottomis,  
ſo long as anie of our owne contrie ſhippes remayne vnfreighted: to this  
wee anſuer, that wee are affured that yee remember nocht what was done  
and concluded in that buſines, in our preſence the laſt day that wee ſat  
at our counſell table in Scotlande, which was this, that as for the generall,  
it wes directlie agreed in theſe verie termes that yee ſette doune in your  
lettre, without one contrarie vote, and wee our ſelfe did propounde the  
queſtion; but becauſe, it is true, that manie particulair queſtions might  
reſulte vpon this grounde, which wolde require furdre time to be digeſted  
and debated, thoſe thinges were leſte to a furdre time, and a full hearing  
of both marchandes and mariners. Wee, therefor, for our parte, can ſee  
no reaſon to change our former reſolution in generall; and as for the  
diſcontentment of the magiſtrates, wee haue learned to diſtinguiſh betwixt.

the particulare well of the marchantes, and the well of the wholle kingdome ; nether are wee anie thing scard by that resolution alledged to be taken in France, for wee see no reason whie the wine should be transported to Scotland in French bottomes, since wee do assuredlie know the French wine to be a commoditie of that nature, as France must be faine to vtter once a yeare in anie bottomes, being a commoditie that they must yearlie vente, or else be extreme loafers. And vpon the other parte, naturall reason teacheth vs that Scotlande being a parte of an Ile, cannot be maynteyned nor preferued withoute shipping, and shipping cannot be maynteyned without employment, and the verie law of nature teacheth euerie forte of corporation, kingdome, or contrie, first, to sette themselues and their owne vesseles on worke befor they employe anie stranger. For our parte, therefor, yee may giue our counsell there full assurance that no argument can or shalbe made against the generall conclusion which our selfe tooke there, that shalbe hable to alter our resolution in this generall grounde, no more then to make vs beleieue that day is nighte, and fire is colde. But as for the particulare conditions and restrictions, which at our being there wee lefte to be debated at full leasour, is, that that course shall still be kepte ; and in caise, vpon the hearing of the marchantis and mariners, anie such question shall arise vpon the particulare, as may distracte our counsell in diuers opinions, then and in that case our counsell shall do well to sende vs these controuerted heades, together with their opinions or doubtles therevpon. As for your other pointe of your lettre, wee neede giue no other answere, then that wee approue verie well the order which the counsell hath taken in the same.

[Indorfed :]

His Majesties Answere, dited by him selfe,  
concerning transporting goodes in  
strange bottomes.

## CLXXVI.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

FEBRUARY 19, 1619.

RYGHT HONORABILL COUSIN,

I haue hithertill continued to mak anfuir to ziours of the 26th Januar, that I nicht see fuim progres in ziour besines, all this oulke has bein bestowed in ziour aëtions, in feffion with the vaffals and fewars in Anandell; all is done to ziour aduocatts contentment. With Dundranane all donne: also, almost as ziour aëtions ar rasonabill, sua I can nocht fay to ziou, bot zie haue als greate fauour off all our breether in feffion\* as onye honest man can wish. I know particulars heiranent will be mair particularlie writtin to ziou be ziour doars.

Ziour aëtioun with Bonitoun fall be, God willing, donne this next oulke, for I called the other aëtions first in order, as I was desired be ziour agent, James Hamiltoun.† All the occurrents I can write to zou [are], our Bifchoppe of Galloway is departed this lyff.‡ Mr Robert Bruce, minister, according to his sacred majesties royall direction, is confined to his awin houfs, and ane mile about.

Nocht ellis at this present, bot my deutie remembered to ziour good

\* Murray could not fail to be in high favour with the judges. He had succeeded the Earl of Dunbar in the management of Scottish affairs, and was all-powerful; so much so, that the proudest of the Scottish nobility sought his patronage.

† The notion of a Lord Chancellor advising and superintending the management of the law proceedings of a friend is somewhat inconsistent with modern ideas of judicial character. There is too much reason to believe, from the evidence that has come down to us, that the administration of justice in Scotland then, and for nearly a century afterwards, was very corrupt. At a later period, Lord Balcarres positively asserts that the leading men of his time got persons thrust in as judges, for the express purpose of influencing the decisions in those cases in which their patrons were personally interested. It is remarkable, that, at the date of Lord Dunfermline's epistle, the English judges were not so subservient as their northern brethren seem to have been; and there is a letter preserved in the Abbotsford Miscellany, in which Sir Henry Montagu, afterwards Earl of Manchester, solicits two of the judges to favour a man who had been one of the King's falconers, but who was in prison on a charge of felony. These upright men disregarded the application, and the culprit having been convicted, they shewed him no favour, but ordered his instant execution, which, to Sir Henry's great annoyance (as he had interfered to gratify the King), actually took place. See p. 212.

‡ William Coupar, a learned and excellent man. He died 15th February 1619.

half mairaw,\* wiffis ziow baith all ziours all happines and contentement.

Ziour louing Coufing at command,

DUNFERMLYNE.

Edinburgh, 19 Feb<sup>r</sup>. 1619.

To my weilbeloued Coufen, Mr Murray  
of Lochmaben, off his sacred Maieftie  
Bedchalmer.

CLXXVII.—NOTE OF THE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

AUGUST 25, 1619.

Halyruideous, xxv. August 1619.

THE mater anent the navigatioun and fraughting of ftrangearis fhippis wes this day at grite lenthe agitat befor the counsell, and the haill obiectiōnis, anfueris, replyis, and duplyis, maid thairanent in write wer all red, and the pairtyis hard thairupoun; and after lang conteftatioun on ather fyde, the mater wes drawne to tua pointis, to witt, the discuffing of the difficulteis and impedimentis proponned anent the easterline trade, quhilk is the cheif point now contrauertit, and the fetting doun of the frauchtis and conditionis of goode and deutifull fervice on the pairt of the marinaris to and fra France, Spayne, and Flanders; and for this purpois, the marcheantis and marinaris hes nominat aucht on ather fyde to conueene and meet at Edinburgh, vpoun the xiii day of September now approtcheing, with my Lord Prefident and fome otheris of the counsaill appointit for that buffynes, quho ar to deale thairin, and to fie yff

\* Marrow, i.e. his wife.

with mutuall consent the pointis contrauertit may be broght to ony goode conclusioun, and thay ar to reporte thair procedingis to the counfaill, vpoun the xv day of the said moneth of September, at quhilk tyme this mater wilbe putt to a point without forder delay.\*

Thair wes ane other point contrauertit, anent the portage, quhilk is discuffit by dischairgeing of all vnfreemen to haif portage.

The particulair recommendit be his maiestie to the counfaill, anent the refyneing of fugair, is thocht, in the generall, to be very reafounable; and yitt for remoueing of all questioun and obiectionis that may be proponed aganis the expediencie of the same, the counfaill hes appointit some of thair nomber to confer thairupoun, and to reporte thair opinion thairanent.

The particulair anent the reffett of Egyptianis, whilk wes lykwayes recommendit be his maiestie, hes reffaut this answer, to witt, that yf the persone recommendit be his maiestie will call the reffettaris of thir Egiptianis befor his maiesteis thesaurair, and deputie thesaurair, and fuche otheris of the counsell as falbe adjoyned vnto thame, and will furneis probatioun aganis thame, that thay fall haif the ane halff of the escheatis and penalteis of the perfonis that falbe convict of the said reffett.

The patent grantit be his maiestie to Gilbert Dik for the Booke of Commoun Prayer is exped.

The pouder boughte in Danskyn for his maiestie being taken to the vse of the King of Denmark; and the counsell hauing written to him, desiring that it mighte be restored to the marchant who had boughte it for his maiesties vse, no order was taken in the mater; and, therefor, it is humblie desired that his maiestie may be pleased to require his brother, the King of Denmark, to take iuste freindlie order in the busines, and to permitte the marchantes of this contrie to transporte thair pouder and other lawfull wares, withoute any trouble or impediment in his boundes.

\* No note of the proceedings in September occurs among Sir James Balfour's MSS., but see Melros Papers, vol. ii. p. 347.

## CLXXVIII.—THE EARL OF TULLIBARDINE TO KING JAMES VI.

[1620?]

MAY IT PLAES YOUR SACREIDE MAIESTIE,

I kno that begging is ane ordinar phrafe for all men that ar futers for thee kings liberalitie, and of this fort I haue beine on, this long tyme, altho I haue as yit come no speid, bot nou, Sir, I am a begger of ane vther kynd, if nobilitie vill permit pouerty to expresse itself in thee hiest degree, or if your maiestie can think me poore, that hes nather maete, fyre, clothes, monny, nor credit. I am perfuadit your maiestie will think this ane strainge chainge from that of my prediceffours, who war rather hellpfull and lenners to vthers, then borrouers from any : some pairt of thair thankfullnes your maiestie hes feine, alltho not as thay wischt. Whoofoeuer, God hes nou layde his correcting hand on me, yit can I plaede nothing bot vnwirthines, and becaus kings ar called gods, it may be your majestie wald take euill (thee word of deferuing), I will forbaer to vse that too, only, Sir, geiue me leiuie to begge your charatie, in such misfour as it fall plaese your majestie best to extend thee same, according to my present misery, vntill your maiestie may be plaefd to vse your liberalitie according to your gratius promise. Thus, remitting all to your maiesteis gratius confideration, I kisse your majesties hands.

Your Majesteis most humble and obedient  
subiect and fervant,

WILL: TULLIBARDINE.\*

[No date.†]

To his most sacreid Maiestie.

\* William, second Earl of Tullibardine. See letter from him to John Murray, p. 280. He died in the year 1626. He married Lady Dorothea Stewart, eldest daughter of John, fifth Earl of Atholl, by whom he had one son, John, whose right to the title of Atholl was confirmed by Charles I. 17th February 1629.

† Probably written in the year 1620.

## CLXXIX.—THE EARL OF TULLIBARDINE TO KING JAMES VI.

[1620?]

PLEIS YOUR SACREIDE MAIESTIE,

I haue so long expectid your maiesteis gratius fauour, for releiffe of my distreſſid eſteat, that nou I am vtterly ondone, for I haue fould all my fathers patrimony, I haue ingadgd all the eſteat off Atholl, and I haue bond my freinds heir and in Scotland for great foumes off monny, that I dar not go home, and hardy hyde heir vithout your maieſteis preſent hellpe. I beſeiſche your maieſtie not to be diſpleide that I propone on off theis vuertours; the making off ane Ingliſche barroune or tua thouſand pounds ſterling out off your Eſcheker heir, vith ſex thouſand pundſ ſterling off the taxatione of Scotland; or ells that your maieſtie vill geiue me leiuē to ſell my ſtylle of Tullibardine to ane Ingliſche man.

Sir, it is not preſumtione that moues me, bot extreme neceſſitie; and I houe your maieſtie will take it ſo, vtheruayis I vill be forſt to ſell all, and ſo no moir to be your ſubiect, althoo all miſereis and baniſment fall neuer make me leue to be

Your Maieſteis moſt humble and  
obedient ſeruant,

TULLIBARDINE.

To his ſacreide Maieſtie.\*

\* There is no date to this letter. It was probably written not long after the preceding one. It preſents a ſingular picture of the extreme poverty of this Scotch nobleman, who ſeems willing to ſell his title even to an Engliſhman, in order that he may obtain the means of ſubſiſtence.



## CLXXX.—KING JAMES VI. TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

[No Date.]

RIGHTE TRUSTIE AND RIGHTE WELLBILOUED CUSENS AND  
COUNSELLOURS, AND RIGHTE TRUSTIE AND WELLBE-  
LOVED COUNSELLORS,

We greet you well. Whereas by reasons of those troubles in France, a verie great number of people professing oure religione haue losse their fortunes in that realme, and for thair safetie fledde with their wiues, childrene, and families into this, hauing no other meanes of mayntinance, sauinge charitie of well disposed people, wee haue bene pleased, oute of our royall commiseration of their distressed estate, to permitte a voluntarie contribution to be leuied in this our kingdom, frome such as oute of their christian charitie shalbe disposed to contribute to their reliefe; and although wee are not ignorant of the small flore of monie presentlie to be founde in that our kingdome, yet in so pitifull a case, wee haue bene pleased to yealde to the humble suite of the deputies of the French Church here, who haue moste humblie besoughte vs that the volunterie helpe of well dispos'd people there may likewise be craued and collected, it is therefor our pleafor that yee giue direction to the Archbyschoppes to write to the Byschoppes of their prouinces, to recommede the matter to the ministers of their diocefes, and they to recommede it to the charitable deuotion of their particular flockes, and such moire as schalbe leuied for that effect, to be by the minister of each parroch broughte to his ordinance, and by him to the Archbishop.

CLXXXI.—ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EARL AND  
COUNTESS OF HUME AND JOHN STEWART.

APRIL 12, 1620.

ARTICLES of Agriement set downe by his maiestie, and agreit to by James Erle of Hume, and the Countes of Hume, his mothir, for hir entres, on the ane pairt; and Johne Stewart, sone to Frances, sumtyme Erle Bothwell, on the vther pairt, for a finall determinatioun of all difference and contraverfie betuene thame, concernyng the Abbacie of Coldingham, to be extendit, and past in the best forme of securitie that can be devyfed for that effect, by his maiesties Chancellor, President, and Advocat, with advyse of both the pairties lawers.

First, That the said erle and his mother, for hir entres, dispone, renunce, and transffer in the favoures of the said Johne, his airis, assignyis, and succeffouris, all richt, entres, and possessioun, quhilk they haue or may claime, to ane pairt of the landis and teindis of the said abbacie, pendicle and pertinent thair of, to which Johne Stewart wes provyedit, and had richt befor his said fatheris forfaitour; with warrandice from ther awin proper factis and deidis allenerlie, done or to be done since the deceis of Alexander, last Erle off Home. That is to say, that they haue nethir maid nor fall mak ane other richt or translatioun of the title and possessioun foirsaid, bot to the said Johne Stewart onlie; and with this explanatioun, that that dispositioun falbe nowyse interpreted nor accompted anie deid done by them, quhairby they or anie of them may be

called or perfewed at the instance of the said Johne or his foirfaidis, or anie other pairtie quhatfumever, for warrandice of anie anterior takis or richtis, fet, maid, or granted be the said Erle of Hume ; bot that the said Johne Stewart, his airis and fuccessouris, fall warrand and relieve the present erle and countes, thair airis and fuccessouris, of all warrandice quhilk may follow, be occasione of these presentis, at the instance of quhatfumevir perfonas haueing or pretending richt from the said late Erle off Home : Provyiding alweyis, that the grant heiroid fall nowyse prejudge the said Johne in his awin anteriour richtis, nor bind him in anie sort to warrand, ratifie, or approve the said deidis done be the said late Erle of Home ; bot that it falbe lawfull to him to reduce and annull the same be vertew of his forsaid anteriour richtes be law.

That therfoir the said Johne fall give perfite securitie to the said Erle of Home, for payment to him of the fowme off fourtie eight thousand pundis Scottis, in maner and at the termes after following : viz. off ane fourt pairt thairoff, being tuell thousand pundis money foirfaid, at Mer-times nixtocum in this instant geir of God 1620 ; of vther tuell thousand pundis at Whitsonday ; and of ane thrid 12 thousand pundis at Mertimes thairefter 1621 ; and of the last tuell thousand pundis, in full and compleit payment of the foirfaid fowme of 48000 pundis, at the terme of Witsonday 1622, with vsuall penalties for ilk termes failzie : And to the effect that the said late Erle of Home's debtis dew be bandis, and as zit vnrelivet, being satisfiet and peyit furth off the first end of the said fowme, and ane competent proportioun of the profite thairoff zeirlie allowit to the said countes, for recompense of the lose quhilk scho fall sustene by this transactioun in quyteing onie thing scho had richt to for her lyftyme, the supplus thairoff may be maid furthcuming to the said Erle of Home, and his airis of his awin bodie, and failzeing therof, to the said erles sifteris, thair airis and assigneyis : And that the samyn may be dewlie imployit for his and thair best profite, it is his maiesties plifour, that the said lordis caus sufficient securitie be maid be the said countes, ather be finding of caution, or, if that cannot be becaus scho is a stranger, be binding of hir conjunctfee for performance of the samyn.

That the said Johne lykweyis bind and obleis his haill landis, teindis, and vtheris apertaining to him of the said abbacie, for peyment to the said erle, and his aires male of his bodie, zeirlie of the fowme off thrie thowfand sex hundreth pundis Scotis, at tua termes in the geir, Witfunday and Mertimes, be equall portiounes, the first termes peyment to be reuled be his entrie, and fet downe be the said lordis, according to the custum and practife in the countrey in the lyke caiffis. Provyding alweyis, that if it fall happen the said erle to die without airis male gotting of his awin bodie, that the said annuitie of thrie thowfand fax hundreth pundis Scottis fall returne to the said Johne, and remane with him and his foirfaidis heritable.

That the said Johne fet and grant takis of the teindis of Ald Cambes and Fastcastell to the said erle, and the airis male of his bodie, he and they defaceing and allowing to the said Johne and his foirfaidis zeirly, of the said annuitie of thrie thousand fax hundreth pundis Scottis, so much as by dew estimatioun falbe fund equivalent to the zeirlie value of the saidis teindis; with this provisioun, that failling airis male of the said erles awin bodie, the saidis takis fall furthwith expyre and be null of them felfis, and the richt of the saidis teindis returne to the said Johne and his foirfaidis, to be intromettit with and disponit vpon at ther plifour: And if the saidis pairties at ther appeirance befor the saidis lordis do not agrie vpon the zeirlie worth of the saidis teindis, that ilk of thame in that case chose and nominat tuo freindis to try and vpon oath to informe the saidis lordis of the trew value of the fame; and that accordinglie they ordane a proportionable defalcation to be expresse conditioned and mentioned in the saidis takis, quhilk gif the said erle refuse to condiscend to, that then it falbe lawfull to the said Johne and his foirfaidis to intromet with the saidis teindis, and dispone therupon at their plifour, they paying in that cace zeirlie the foirfaid haill fowme of thrie thousand fax hundreth pundis Scottis money.

That Johne Stewart discharge the said erle, his said mother, and ther foirfaidis, of all byrun dewties and profiteis of the said abbacie since the late Erle Homes possessioun therof; provyding alweyis, that (if the afoir-

namet lordis fall find it requisite and neceffar for the faid Johne his bettir securitie) the faid erle be in that cace bund at his majoritie to rati-  
fie and approve the difpofitiounes and securities to be now maid in fa-  
vouris of the faid Johne and his foirfaidis, and that, if the faid erle refuse  
to do the fame, it falbe lawfull to the faid Johne and his foirfaidis, nocht-  
withftanding the faid difcharge, to call and perfew, be ordour of law, for  
the faidis byrunis : And lykweyis, that, in cace of his faid refuifeifall, the  
takis ordaned, as faid is, to be fet to him, fall fall, and be null in them-  
felffis, and the faid Johne fred, from thencefurth, of all forther payment of  
the faid annuitie of thrie thousand fax hundreth pundis money foirfaid, and  
the faid erle and his foirfaidis be bund and obleift in reypement of the  
foirfaid fowme of fourtie aucht thowfsand pundis Scottis to the faid Johne  
and his foirfaidis.

That, for the better fecuring and eftableifing of the faid Johne and  
his foirfaidis in the heritable richt and poffeffioun of the faid abbacie,  
and pertinentis of the fame, quherunto he wes provydit befor his faid  
late fatheris fall, the faidis lordis, with advyfe of his laweris, caus forme  
and fend to his maieftie fuch new richtis and securities, or confirmatiounes  
and ratificatiounes of his auld richtis, conteining in them ane erectioun  
of the abbacie to him and his foirfaidis (bot without title and dignitie of a  
lord), as, in ther jugement, they fall think moift effectuell to secure him  
and them of the fame.

Laftlie, It is his maiefties plifour, that, for the fpidier performance of  
the premiffis, baith the faidis pairties fall repair to his maiefties kingdome  
of Scotland betuene the date heiroff and the day off nixtocum,  
that fo they may the moir convenientlie meit with the foirnamet lordis,  
to the effect foirfaid ; and in taikin of ther willing consent to the fulfilling  
of the haille premiffis, to thefe presentis, figned by his maieftie, both the  
faidis pairties haue fet ther handis : At Whytehall and St Mertenes  
Lane, the tuelff and aughteint dayis of Apryle 1620, befor Archibald  
Prymrois and Duncane Prymrois, and Mr Patrik Hammiltoun, witnes  
to Johne Stewartes fubfcriptioun, and Mr Edward Wrae, off his ma-

iefties bedchalmer, and James Dowglas, witnes to the Countes of Homes.  
Sic fubferibitur,

A. HOME.

J. STEUART.

Edward Wray, witnes to  
the Countes of Homes fub-  
fcription. James Dowglas,  
witnes to hir fubfcription.\*

Archibald Prymrois, witnes  
to Johne Stewartes fubfcrip-  
tioun. Duncane Prymrois,  
witnes to his fubfcriptione.

CLXXXII.—SIR GIDEON MURRAY TO KING JAMES VI.

JUNE 30, 1620.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

It is litle paft a yeare fence forrane moneyes, by proclamatione, wer difcharged to haue cours within this realme; bott that prohibitione hes bred fuche vniuerfal fcarftie of moneyes throuhowt the whole kingdome, as your maiefties fubiectes of all fortis ar liklie thairby to recaue irreparable herme, geue fume fpeidy and tymous remedy be not provydit. Amongest a number of wther inconvenientis, your maiefties cofferis heir ar maid fo emptie, that I find great difficultie to gett whairwith to furneifche moneyes for your maiefties buildingis, and the wther neceffarie and ordinarie burdingis, altho no part thairof wer to be employed for paymentis dew befor Witfunday laft; and geue the inconvenient fall continow and increas, your fubiectis heir, of all rankis, wilbe rendered unable to performe thair dew feruice for your maiefties honour, when it fall pleas God we haue the happienes to fie yowr maieftie within this kingdome. It wilbe peraduentur obiected aganes the humble petitione prefented

\* "It is lykeweyis signed by his Maieftie."

in name of the noblemen, burowes, and remanent subiectis of this kingdome, whairanent your maiestie hes a lettre frome the Lordis of Cownfell, that thair defyr wilbe preiudiciall to your maiesteis benefeitt, arryving frome the mynt, whairanent it will pleas your maiestie be informed, that, albeit for the space of ane half yeaere efter the proclamacione, monyes came by exchandge to the mynt hous moir abundantlie nor they did for a long tyme befor, yet the frie proffeit thair of, and of all that cam in for the space of twa yeaeres (the bulzeoun payable by the merchantis excepted) did litle exceid the sounge of sex or sevin thousand merkis Scottis, as the compt laitlie maid by the maister of the coinziehouse doethe testifie. Nor will the geving cours to sune spaces of forraine moneyes heir do preiudice to your maiesteis subiectis of England, whair these spaces, beand transported frome hence, will onlie serue for bulzeoun, altho they pas in paymentis amongest your maiesteis subiectis heir. The difficultie I find to do your maiesteis seruice, by reasoun of the present scarcitie, with the earnest defyr I haue that your maiesteis subiectis heir may be eased of siche inconvenient, haue moved me to present to your maiesteis princelie consideration these informall lynes, for the whiche I humbly craue your maiesteis pardoun, and will end with my humble prayer for your maiesteis long preferuation in all healthe and happienes.

Your sacred Maiesteis most humble  
and faithfull seruand,

G. MURRAY.

Edinburgh, the last of June 1620.

To the Kingis most excellent Maiestie.

CLXXXIII.—MR H. BLYTH\* TO THE REVEREND HENRY CHARTERIS.

DECEMBER 26, 1620.

MY DEIR AND MAIST LOVING BROTHER,

I hartlie wishe to 3ow in the Lord Jefus, our common Sauour, the sweit affluence and joyfull increafe of all spirituall happines with 3our deir bedfellow and hopefull children. I haue bene and am in great langour defyring to heir of 3our weillfair, and mervells 3e wryt not to me, feing I for3eitt nocht 3ow as I haue occasioun, for 3e are still in my remembrance, wishing it may pleife our good God I may haue agayne the . . . . 3our face, and inioy the sweitnes of our wonted chriftiane familiaritie. I [doubt] nocht, deir brother, bot 3e remember me also, bot I wald haue the testimonies of 3our loving remembrance more frequent be 3our wryting to me, till it pleife our God to bring ws more neir to vther. As to my present estait, I preis my God it is tolerable. I am awayting in patience the isswe it fall pleis my heavenly Lord to fend of my troble, wherin my God hes wyllie difpofed. Albeit I think in vnderferued in regaird of all the instruments wha hes concurred in the sam. I am expecteing a relenting of this rigorous dealing, hoping also that be 3our interceffion with sic vther my weillwillers thair, the sam may be procured att St Androis hands, be whais will, as I vnderstand, only I am detained heir. I think it my dewte to omit no lawfull meane I may vse for my awin releif, and thairfor will renew my earnest requeist to 3ow as my most speciall and loving brother and freind, to remember me as 3e find occasioun, with the help of Mr Thomes, my father, and billie, Mr James King, and sic vthers 3e think meit in speiking St Androis for me, that I may haue libertie ayther to cum hame agayne, or at least may haue a tyme granted to putt my diffordered affairs to a poynt, as I may within thir four or fyue dayes. I being in Channorie mett with the

\* Mr Henry Blyth, minister of the Canongate, on the 2d July 1619, was brought before the Court of High Commission—suspended from his ministry, and banished to Inverness by the King's orders. See an account of his troubles in the printed edition of Calderwood's Church History, pp. 731 and 735.



Bishop of Ros,\* wha professis great kyndnes to me, and willed me to wryt my felf to St Androis, quhilk he thinks wald effectuat muche, for he tells me it may be that St Androis† stormes, and thinks I dort that wryts not to him my felf. Trewlie I think not ill of the overture, for my not wryting to St Androis aryfes of na contempt, and if that meane may do good I mind not to neglect it. The Bishop of Ros, out of his love to me, quhilk he professis, hes drawn vp a minute according to the quhilk I fuld frame my letter to St Androis. When I wryt it I fall fend zow the copie. In the meane tyme, do ze as the Lord fall present occasioun, and be not sa flaw in wryting to me anent that, or ony vther purpose ze pleis, for nothing will cum fra zow quhilk will not be most acceptable to me. My jewell is weill, all preifes to God, and hes hir hartlie commendatioun to zow, and her sweit kymmer and sifter, Helene, hes bene maist dangeroufli diseased thir 18 weeks, as I dowl not ze haue hard, bot in the Lords gracious mercy is recovered. All the rest of the barines hes had the fluxe thir many days, bot I hope without preiudice of thair health. The berars haft cutts me short. I pray zow remember all our freinds, namely, zour honest mother-in-law, zour brothir, and Mr Thomes Sydferf. He wrytes not to me, and I haue small purpos to him bot commendatiouns, quhilk I pray zou mak in my name. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with zow.

Your loving brothir, in all I may  
in the Lord Jesus,

MR. H. BLYTHE.

Inverness, 26 Decemb : 1620.

To my maist loving and deir Brothir,  
Mr Henrie Charteris, Minister of  
the Evangell, at Edinburt, thes.‡

\* Patrick Lyndesay, advanced to the see of Ross, 27th October 1613, translated to the Archbishoprick of Glasgow, 1633.

† Archbishop Spottiswood.

‡ Communicated by Mr David Laing. The original letter had been pasted upon the boards of a book to strengthen the binding.

## CLXXXIV.—THE EARL OF DUNFERMLINE TO JOHN MURRAY.

JANUARY 30, 1621.

RIGHT HONORABILL AND . . . . . COUSING,

I directed ane pacquett to ziow 9 instant, quhilk I lang to onderstand that zie refaued, becaufe I directed the same at Mr Thomas Henderfon his desire, and with his lettirs to ziow. Our Archibifchioppe of St Androis is going thair to Court, in this terrible euill waddir, at the greate entreatie off all the nobilitie was heir at this conuentioun, to giue his sacred maiestie, in name of all, all possibill satisfactioun. I man requiest ziow also, in name of all, and my self also, to affist the said lord bifchioppe be all ziour best meanis, so he may be weill hard and accepted be his maiestie. I assure ziow, if his maiestie fall giue eare to his ouuertures, and profecute sic course as he will propone, it will worke all for the bettir to his maiesties intentionis. I hoipe my lord bifchioppe will latt his maiestie knaw I did for my awin pairt all I micht, to haue all at his maiesties wifs and will; sua I did in treuth, and, if ziow heir off onye other, I pray ziow anfuir for me, and latt me knaw it: I fall mak it cleir for ziour releiff and my awin. Mr Archibald Hamiltoun, called Doctour Hamiltoun, hes shiawin me he was meikill behaldin to ziow quhen he was thair this last fomer. He sh[iawis] also that he had ane promeis of his maiestie, as ziow knaw, off ane bifchioprick in Ireland; the bifchiopricke off Caffillis has required me to remembir ziow of the same, for he onderstandis the present bifchioppe\* is werye weake, if he be nocht gone, and wald be thairfore remembred to his maiestie. I wald zie did him onye guid zie could, for I knaw na farder in the besines nor be him. He is minifter of Paslay, and I knaw werye weill his father, ane werye honest man, Claude off the Cochno; thairfore I remitt that to ziowr awin wifdome, albet I wifs eiuer our pepill had all rafonabill and possibill helpe. I haue writtin to

\* Miler Magragh, a Franciscan friar, who, turning Protestant, was promoted to the see of Cashell in 1570. He died, aged 100 years, in 1622. He was succeeded by Malcolm Hamilton, and in 1630 Archibald Hamilton was translated from Killala to this Archbishoprick. He died at Stockholm in 1659, aged 80 years.

ziow fuim tymes to remembir ziow helpe me to ane new poolke for the greate feale, bot hes had na anfuir fra ziow zit off the fame; nather is thair haift in the mater, bot I wifs it nocht forziett. I haue na farder to wryte to ziow, other nor my awin and my half-marrowis maift hartlie commendations to ziow and ziour bedfallow. Sua wiffis ziow baith and all ziours all happines,

Ziour maift affectionat Coufing,  
to ferue ziow,

DUNFERMELJNE.

Frome Edinburgh, 30 Jan<sup>r</sup>. 1621.

To the Right Honorabill my  
weilbeloued Coufing, Jhone  
Murray off Lochmaben, in  
his facred Maiesties Bed-  
chalmer.

CLXXXV.—THE MAGISTRATES OF EDINBURGH TO JAMES VI.

APRIL 6, 1621.

MAIST GRATIOUS AND DREAD SOUERANE,

As none of our endeuouris doe fatiffie ws till we find thame approved by your facred maiestie, so your maiesties trustie counsailour the Archibifchop of Sanctandrois, vpone his returne haveing delyuerit to vs, to our inestimable conforte, your maiesties gratious constructioun of our meanest seruices in the rewallis of your royall affectioun, and for our furdur incouragement in the work of draperie latelie intendit be vs, your maiesties grant of findrie liberties and priueledgis, we can not bot in all

humilitie and submissioun of myndis, rander to your maiestie all those sacrifices of maist humble submissioun and acknowledgement of your royall fauours, quhilk is dew to so great, gracious, and wyfe a monarche; and humblie prostrate our selffes, and quhat we haue in this world dearest to vs, at your sacred feet to be disposed vpon. To this effect we haue directed the bearer heirof, Maister Johnne Hay, our clerk and commissiouner, to your maiestie, and, with all, humblie intreate from your sacred maiestie those supplies whiche we houped to haue reffaued by your maiesties royall prefens (more then which nothing in earth can be pleasing to vs), quhair of we fall now be ecclipsed, if it fall not pleas your sacred maiestie, vnder your royall hand, to giue warrant to your maiesties estaites of parliament heir to be conuened, to ratifie those grants whairwith your sacred maiestie and your maist noble progenitouris hes formerlie beautified this your maiesties guid toun. For the quhilk, as we haue nothing to rander bot which is dew, so will we assure your maiestie we fall not value our lyffes nor our fortunes to mak your maiestie demonstratioun of our royall affectiounis, quhen we fall haue the happienes of the occasioun to schaw it; nather fall any thing be more in the lyne of our desyres, then that your maiesties dayis may be extendit to the periode of nature, the limites of your empyre to the boundis of your matcheleffe wisdome and worth, that as in all royall furniture, so in dominion, your sacred maiestie may surpasse all earthlie monarches. And sua, maist humble craving pardoun for our presumptioun, remitting quhat furder is to be said to our commissiouner, quhom your maiestie fall be pleased to trust on our behalfe, we fall euer rest

Your Maiesties maist humble and obedient subiectis,  
The Provest and Baillies of Edinburgh,

D. AIKINHEID, PROVEST.

ROBERT DOUGALL, BAILLIE.

JHONE MAKNAUGHT, BAILLIE.

W<sup>m</sup>. DICK, BAILLIE.

HARY MORESONE, BAILLIE.

Edinburgh, 6 April 1621.

To his most excellent Maiestie.

## CLXXXVI.—THE EARL OF MORTON TO KING JAMES VI.

APRIL 18, 1621.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

Wpon the ficht of a licence giuin be your maiestie to Mr Alexander Coluill, for the freindis of the hous of Argyll,\* to deal with that erle to try if we micht recall him from that euill cours wharin he hes plungit him selue, I, as on who, both by bluid and allyance, am oblisit to wisch the standing of that hous, did wret to him to kno if he grundid him selue upon anie refons in that cours wich he had takin; as also, I laborit to fie if yet he was cum to that fence of him selue as to wisch a retrait from his euill wayis: His anfuier cam flolie to me, and when I had it, I could gedder no uther thing by it, bot that he ferit I had no uther pouer bot by my kynd wischis to procurir him a faif retrait. Heirupon I heue presumit humble to beg your maiesties refolution, if without offence I may yet trauell with the Erle of Argyll to bring him to a just acknoledgement of his grait ouersicht, and that he may mak such offers of amendment as may be acceptable to your maiestie: and in my trauels to this effect, albeit I will stryue to scho my selue a kynd freind to him and to his hous, yet my greteft cair fall be, that I do no thing which may be unfeimlie for

Your Majesties most faithful subject  
and humble feruitor,

MORTON.†

Neuhous, 18 Apryl 1621.

To the King his most sacred Majestie.

\* The Earl of Argyll left his own country, took service under the King of Spain, and became a Papist. His conversion, as we have previously remarked, was brought about by his second wife Anne, daughter of Sir William Cornwallis of Brome, a Roman Catholic lady. Craig of Rose-Craig has these lines on him:

Now Earle of Guile, and Lord Forlorn thou goes,  
Quitting thy prince, to serve his Spanish foes.  
No faith in plaids, no trust in Highland trews,  
Camelion like, they change to many hues.

† William seventh Earl of Morton. He was born in 1582, and died in his sixty-sixth year, 7th August

## CLXXXVII.—THE EARL OF MAR TO KING JAMES VI

APRIL 25, 1621.

SIR,

For obediens of your maiesties comands delyuerit vnto me oy Sir Patrick Morray, I haive bein als caerfull as the shortnes of tym vold fuffer me to try the best mein for effectuating your gracious plefor anent the makking of Glenammind\* a forest, as this berar your maiesties seruant can most particularlie shau you, quhat I can nott doo att this tym I shall very shortlie, I houp, rander you an account of; the greatest parts of all the forest most be of Sir Patricks aun lands, only this far I vill afuir your maiestie, thair is not in this kingdom so fitt a place for a forest. In this, or any thing els quhairin I can ferue your maiestie, I shall euer be reddie as my deutie binds me. Thus, efter the kissing of your sacred handis, I humblie rest

Your Maiesties most hounble subiect  
and feruitour,

MAR.

Alluay, the xxv of Apryll 1621.

To the Kings most excellent Maiestie.

1648. He suffered great pecuniary losses by his support of the royal cause during the great civil war, and was compelled to part with his noble property of Dalkeith—now a principal estate of the Buccleuch family. His sister, Lady Agnes, was the first wife of the Earl of Argyle.

\* A picturesque valley in Perthshire, watered by the river Almond.

CLXXXVIII.—THE TREW INFORMATION OF THE ACSIDENT FALLIN OUT  
BETUIX DRUMLANGRIG AND CASSCHOGILL, VPON SATTURDAY THE  
TUELFf DAY OF MAY, 1621 YEIRE.

IN the first, It is to be rememberit, that the landis of Airdoche and Cnokcone, pertening to Daid Douglas, brother to the Laird of Drumlangrig, and the landis of Casschogile, pertening to Sir Robert Douglas, ar baith hauldin of the hous of Drumlangrig, and lyand within the barronie thair-off, merchand togidder, weill knawin, be ane walter passaige diffending from the hicht of the hill, and rining doune betwix thame. Thair being no guid mois vpon that pairt of the landis pertening to Casschogile, thay haue oft and diuerse times haid licence and tollerance of the Lairdis of Drumlangrig, as thair kinefmen and freindis, to cast and wine thair peattis and haill elding vpon the landis of Cnokconie, and diueris tymes as thai omittit thair dewtie to the hous of Drumlangrig, thay haue beine interupit and impedit thair of, ay and quhill thai creavit libertie out of luiff frome the Lairdis of Drumlangrig to cast thair faidis peattis thair, quhilkes being creavit was ever granted.

It is to be rememberit, that this being the first yeir of the faid Daid Douglas his entrie to the faidis landis of Erdoche and Cnokconie, fyne the deceis of his vmquhile faither, and expyring of his minoritie, he haueing the occasioun to go to Hawick to vifeit his mother, quhilk is mair nor fourtie four mylnes distant fra the faidis landis, the faid Daid, efor his goeing, did desyre his brother James Douglas of Moufwall, to haue ane caire that he, his grund, nor tennentis, fould get na wrange befor his returning home againe frome Hawick; as alsua he directit his tennentis, that gif Casschogill or his tennentis com to cast their peattis vpon the faidis landis, that thai fould adverteife his brother the Laird of Moufwall thair off, quha wald not suffer him nor thame to get wrang.

Vpon Wedinfday the nynt day of Maij, Casschogills fervendis and

tenentis haueing cumed to the mose of Cnokconie for casting of thair peitis, the Laird of Moufwall being advertefit thair of, fend to the cafteris and difchairgit thame in the faid David Douglas name, of the casting thair off, without his licence, affuireing thame gif thai wald not ftay, that thai wald be impedit and not suffered to caft the faidis peitis. Lykeas the faid James Douglas of Moufwall, vpon the morne thairefter, come himfelf and ane vther with him, and interruptit the faid wark be cutting of fume of the peitis and casting of thame in the pot agane.

Vpon Setturday thairefter, being the twelff day of Maij, Caffchogill himfelf, with his fone Robert, his hail fervandis and tennentes, to the number of threttie fex men or thairby, with fuordis, hagbottis, lances, corne-forkis, and great kentis, by wemen and fallowis, com to the faid mose per force be way of bangeftrie, to caft thair peitis. The Laird of Moufwall being adverteifit thair of, paft and tuik with him the Laird of Ballaggine, ane freind of thairis, quhome he directit to deall with Caffchogill and his fone to ftay the faid wark, and not to doe it in contempt, bot to feik it out of luiff; quhilk being fua creavit thai fould get thair defyre; quhilk thai difdainefullie refuifit, and vtterit contemptuous fpeitches, declairing that thai fould caft thair peitis thair, quha wald, quha wald nocht. The faid James Douglas of Moufwall enterit in fpeitches with the faid Robert Douglas, requeifting him to move his father to leive of that contemptuous forme of doing, for efchewing of ane gretter fkaith, affureing him that he wald cum better fpeid efter ane luiffing mainer. The faid Robert than anfuerit him with the lyk difdainefull fpeitches as of befoire. The Laird of Moufwall, than anfuering and affuireing the faid Robert, gif his faith and he war of that mynde, thai fould not be sufferit to proceid in that wark.

This cuming to the Laird Drumlangrigis knowlege, he, for preventing of evill, directit the Laird of Dalzell, the Laird of Lage youngar, the Laird of Balagane, and Capitane Johnftoune, to deall with Caffchogill and his fone, to ftay that contemptuous warke, and to giff thame ane affurance that giff thai wald feik libertie to caft peitis out of luiff, thai fould be fatiffit: And efter he had directit thame away, he callit to remembrance the ftuburnes of the people of both fydis, and quhat authoritie



he had vnder the kingis maiestie to command thame, he heastit himselff efter the saidis comissioneris to quhome he schew his farder will, that gif Caffchogill could be moveit to ony reffone, he wald abfulotlie, as superiour to thame both, command his brother, and as the kingis maiesties officer and shirreff, dischairge the wark for ane schort tyme, that fume better ordour war takin thairwith. According to the quhilk, the saidis comissioneris proceedit, Drumlangrige being present, he as shireff, in maner foirfaid, in his maiesties name dischairgit the said warke, and all being done in maner as said is, was dissobeyit; the Laird of Moufwall heiring the contemptuous answer, vtterit in thir speitches, as followes: “Ze ar over peart to dissobey the kingis maiesties chairge, quicklie pack you and goe away.” Immediatlíe thairefter, ane of Caffchogillis servandis with ane great kent, strak Capitane Johnstoune behind his bak, tua great straikis vpon the heid, quhilkis maid him fall deid to the grund with great loife of his bluide. And than the said Robert Douglas presentit ane bendit hagbote within thrie elnes to the Lairdis of Drumlangrigis his breift, quhilk at the pleasour of God misgave. And immediatlíe thairefter, the said Robert of new morfit the said hagbut, and presentit hir agane to him, quhilk schot and mist him, at the plesour of God; and Robert Dalzell, naturall sone to the Laird of Dalzell, was struken throuche the body with ane lance, quha cryit that he was slaine; and fume tua or thrie men was struken throuche thair clothis with lances, sua that the haill company thought that thai haid beine killit, and than thought it was tyme for thame to begine to defend thame selffis; quhairvpon the said Robert Douglas, and vther thrie or foure of his folk being hurte, was put to flicht, and in the fleing the said Robert fell, quhair the Laird of Drumlangrig chanefit to be narrest him, quha, notwithstanding of the formar offer, the said Robert maid to him with the hagbute, not onlie spairit to straik him with his awin handis, bot lykewayis dischairgit all the rest vnder the paine of thair lyffis to steir him; vtherwayis the said Robert had beine slain, as the said Robert and findrie vtheris of his company declaird. All this was done vpon ane great suddinetie efter the falling of Capitane Johnstoune, the presenteng of the hagbute to Drumlangrig, and Robert Dalzellis crying that he was slaine. Quhat hurt of bodie and lois

of bluid, Drumlangrigis few company hes, it war langefum to wryitt ; for Caffhogill war thryfe als many of company as he.\*

CLXXXIX.—JAMES VI. TO THE MARQUIS OF HAMILTON.

AUGUST 2, 1621.

RIGHTE TRUSTIE, &c.

Wee haue vnderstood by the letters of diuers perfons, your good and happie endeauoris in our seruice at this parliament, and how far your paines and trauelles haue aduanced our affaires. How yee haue behaued your selfe, or what formes yee haue vsed wee know not, but your prouident and wife cariage hath bene highlie commended to vs by all fortes of people, both ecclesiasticall and laik, whereby as yee haue giuen vs exceeding contentment, so wee can not choose but giue you moste heartie thankses, not doubting but the finall euent wilbe correspondent to so good a beginning. And now, the Lord Ochilttrie returning into that our kingdome, who exhibited vnto vs certeyn Articles concerning Sir Gedion Murray, it is requeste that the said Articles be tried, that if that man who is now deade haue bene honest, his fame may be cleared even in the graue wher he lyeth ; as, on the contrarie, if he haue bene dishonest, it is no lesse important to our croune that he be discouered. And if the enformer proue false, it is likewise materiall ; for besides the perpetuall aspersiõ which will ly vpon him, it will cause vs be the more warie in crediting him hereafter. And because it is requeste that for triall of these Articles, commission be granted to certeyn perfons for that effecte, the Lord Ochilttrie presented vnto vs one which wee refused to signe, but haue thoughte good to require yow to cause one be framed by the aduice of our counsell there, and speciallie of our aduocate, in legall forme ac-

\* Both Drumlangrig and Douglas were criminally indicted. See Pitcairn's *Criminal Trials*, vol. iii. part ii. p. 500, but were never brought to trial—having accommodated matters amongst themselves, and having doubtlessly dealt with his Majesty in the *usual* way.

customed, or as shalbe requesite in this case; and that yee cause inferte therin with your selfe, our Chancellour, the Archbyshoppe of St Andrews, the Earles of Mar, Lithgow, and Winton, the Byshoppe of Rosse, Sir George Hay, Sir Androw Car, and Sir James Skene. Wee likewise require yow, before your comming frome thence, to fette the said triall on foote, and see such of the said Articles tried and examined as may by witnesse be moſte easilie procured; and in speciall, the first Article concerning the setting of our customes, which (in respecte that those who were farmers thair of, are all or moſte of them yet alieue) may be easilie tryed, to the entent that, at your returne hether, yee may giue vs a tasting of the mater, that, by those few pointes, wee may coniecture what wilbe the euent of the wholle; and becaus, for clearing of diuers pointes, it wilbe requesite that the Lord Ochiltrie haue inspection of such writtes, rolles, and registers as may serue for his better prooffe, it is good reason that yee cause the same be made patent to him as often as he shall require, and that yee giue him all lawfull incouragement which may animate him to persiste in a good course. And assuring yow that the finding oute of the treuth of this mater wilbe vnto vs moſte acceptable seruice, wee, &c. Apothorth,\* 2 Aug: 1621.

[Indorſed:]

Coppie of his Maieſties lettre  
to the Marques of Hamilton, 2d  
of August 1621.

CXC.—THE EARL OF MAR TO JOHN MURRAY OF LOCHMABEN.

JUNE 12, 1622.

GOOD GOSSIP,

Theis ar to aquentt zou that this morning betuix fax and feuin, my Lord Cancelar departed this lyff at his aun hous of Pinkie.

\* Althorp?

I knau or this tym, 3e haue received letters from Sir Jaems Ballyie. I vill ernaestlie intrett 3ou to be carefull in this mater concerning the keiping of the abbay and park of Holyroudhoue, thaer is many refons that moues to itt. I am duelling prefentlie in it, and am fo tyed be my place. All thir particulars I remitt to Sir Jaems Balyeis letter with this berar, and I doubt not bot 3e vill haue a cair of itt, as ever I can doo 3ou pleafar. This from

Your louing Cufing,

J. MAR.

Holyroudhoue, the xij. of June 1622.

To my louing Cufing, Jhoone  
Murray of Lochmabane.\*

CXCI.—INSTRUCTIONS BY JAMES VI. RELATIVE TO THE ACTION BROUGHT BY THE EARL OF MAR† FOR RECOVERY OF THE BARONY OF KILDRIMMIE.

1. For my aduocate not to conceale, as he will anfowre to me upon his allegiance, if I can reffaue anie hurte ather in honoure or proffeit, if the Erle of Marre shoulde tryumphe in this action.

\* Shortly afterwards Viscount of Annand and Lord Murray of Lochmaben, and lastly Earl of Annandale. —Wood, in his edition of Douglas, mentions that “the date of his creation does not appear,” but that he had a charter, wherein he is called John Viscount of Annand, of the Palace in Dumfries, &c., 20th February 1623–4. His elevation to the Peerage is earlier than this, as amongst the Balfour MSS. there is a letter signed “John Murray,” dated the 27th June 1622, and addressed to the Earl of Melros, and then follows a letter by the Lord Johnstoun, dated 6th August 1622, to Murray as “my Lord Viscount of Annan.”

† John Earl of Mar brought an action of reduction-improbation, &c., against the Lord Elphinstone for setting aside his right to the barony of Kildrinnie (or Kildrummie), the principal estate of the ancient Earls of Mar. In this law-suit he was successful, and Lord Elphinstone, although he and his ancestors had been in possession for more than a century, was (as the act 1617 had only recently passed) compelled to restore the lands.

Kildrinnie had been seized by Alexander Stewart, a natural son of the Wolf of Badenoch. Alarmed at what he had done, he, on the 19th September 1404, presented himself at the castle gate of Kildrinnie, and

2. That he transſerre his place for this action, upon a qualified perſon of the Lorde Elphinstons election.

3. That the ſeſſion be commandit to take goode heede if any thing interuene in this proceſſe, that may indeede ather towche me in conſcience, honoure or profite, and that how ſoone any ſuche ſtring ſhall be touched upon, I may be acquainted thair with, before thay make anie proceeding in that point.

4. That the Erle of Marre ſhall publiquellie declare, that he claimes nothing by Dame Marguerite Douglaſſe tytyle\* to any pairt of the erldome

surrendered to Iſobel, Counteſſ of Mar in her own right, and widow of Sir Malcolm Drummond, not only the caſtle, but the furniture and title-deeds. He then delivered the keys : whereupon the Counteſſ, taking them in her hands, choſe the ſaid Alexander for her husband, gave him the caſtle, together with the Earldom of Mar, to be held by her ſaid husband and herſelf, and the heirs to be procreated betwixt them : which failing, to the Counteſſ and *her lawful heirs*. Accordingly, in preſence of the Biſhop of Roſs and her tenants, ſhe granted a charter to this effect on the 9th December 1404, which was ratified under the Great Seal the 21ſt January following.

Iſobel Counteſſ of Mar died without iſſue in 1419, whereupon the earldom and eſtate devolved on the heir of line, Janet Keith, grand-daughter of Ellen, ſiſter of Donald, twelfth Earl of Mar. But James the Firſt, who, in his deſire to curb the nobility, made no ſcruple to ſet juſtice at defiance, reſuſed to recognise her right or that of her husband, Sir Thomas Erſkine, and although Alexander Stewart had merely a liferent, his Maſteſty obtained from him a reſignation of the honours ; whereupon a charter of the earldom was granted, 28th May 1426, to Alexander for his life, and to Thomas his natural ſon, and the lawful heirs-male of his body ; which failing, to return to the crown. Earl Alexander died without iſſue in Auguſt 1435, and, as his ſon Thomas predeceaded him, the earldom, under this charter, reverted to the crown. The reſignation was, however, clearly null, as the ſubſtitution to the heirs of the Counteſſ Iſobel, in the charter 1405, upon her death effectually transferred the earldom to Janet Keith.

Robert Lord Erſkine, ſon of the marriage between Janet Keith the heir of line, and Sir Thomas Erſkine, upon the death of Alexander, ſerved himſelf heir (22d April 1438) to Counteſſ Iſobel, and a precept was iſſued for infeſting him, upon which ſeiſin followed, 21ſt November 1438. He aſſumed the title of Earl of Mar, and ſubſequentlly beſieged and took poſſeſſion of the caſtle of Kildrinnie, but was compelled to redeliver it to the King. His ſervice was thereafter reduced, and although his right to the earldom was perfectly clear, neither he nor his descendants were able to obtain it for more than a century. Upon the 5th May 1555, John Lord Erſkine was ſerved heir of Robert Erſkine Earl of Mar, and upon the 23d June 1565, Queen Mary granted a charter of the earldom in his favour, which was ratified by Parliament, 19th April 1567. He accordingly became Earl of Mar ; various ſuits, for recovering the family eſtates, were inſtituted by him and his ſon John, the next earl, which were for the moſt part ſucceſſful.

\* “ Margaret, daughter to the third Donald, Earle of Mar, as ſhe deſigns herſelf in ſeverall charters, ſucceeded her brother. She married William, the firſt Earle of Douglas, by whom ſhe had James, Earle of Douglas, killed att Otterburn, who had no lawful iſſue, only two baſtard ſones, the eldeſt, William, Laird of Drumlanrig, predecessor to James, Duke of Queensberrie, who got of the family ſeverall lands, and, in

of Douglass, and shall, if need be, make renunciation of any fuche clayme in fuche manner as the parties hauing intresse shall deuyse; et sic fiat iustitia.

CXCII.—THE COUNTESS OF MAR TO JOHN MURRAY.

JUNE 16, 1622.

MOST WORTHY SERVANT,

I am fory att my hart, faving Gods pleafur, to haue this occasion to advertis you of the death of my Lord Chancellor, who deceaffed this morning betuixt fax and feaven. I pray God derect his magesty to take the best cows for the estaytt of this poore kingdome, for itt will be fownd thatt ther will be greatt missing of him thatt is gone. I know my lord hath wretten to you as one whome he doth repose in. My Lord is defyrows to haue his magestys favor to haue the keiping of the Abbay and the Park, the rather thatt in regard of his continuall attendance heir in his magesty service, and thatt none will so willingly undergo sic occasions as do concerne the honor of the country, in enterainment of strangers when itt fall fall owt, or any vther occasions of his magestys service. So I befeik yow to giue your best affistance in thes, and thatt yow will do me the favor as to let me know whatt cows his magesty is to take, both in his service for appoynting of another chancellor, as lykways in this other

token of his grateful sense of their kindness, quartered the armes of the family of Mar with that of Douglas: the other bastard was Archibald, predecessor to Douglas of Cavers. She bore also to the said William, Earle of Douglas, ane daughter called Isobell, afterwards Countess of Mar. The said Margaret, Countess of Mar, was married after to Sir John Swinton, whether after the death of William, Earle of Douglas, or by reason of a divorce from him, is not certain; by whom no issue. She designed herself Countess of Mar and Douglas. Godscroft, in his History of the Douglasses, as also a printed genealogie since come out, makes the said James, Earle of Douglas, to have been son to Margaret Dumbar, daughter to the Earle of March, which is a mistake, as appears by a disposition of Keith of Inverugies, as also by a charter granted by the said Margaret, Countess of Mar, of a mortificatione to the chappell of the Virgin Mary in Garviach, which is to be seen in the chartulary of Aberdeen in the Advocates' Library." Erskyne's Genealogie of the Mar Family, MS.

particular of the Park and the Abbay: So, wifching yourself and your bedfellow all happines, I rest

Your affeured freind to ferve yow,

A. ERSKYNE.

Halyrudhus, 16 of June 1622.

Yesterday his magestys letter was rede in the cession, and according to his magestys desyr in itt, my lord did publickly renunce all claime to the Erldome of Dowglas, and thereafter sett his hand to itt, as the lordes defyred.

To my verie loving freind, Mr Jhon Murray,  
of his Majestys Bedchamber.

CXCIII.—THE EARL OF MAR TO JOHN MURRAY.

JUNE 20, 1622.

GOOD GOSSUP,

Althoh I haiue vryttin this other letter, quhilk, according to your aun discrefion (give ze think itt good), ze may shau unto his majestie, zitt haue I vryttin this letter particularlie for your self, to latt you knau fumquhat of the proceedings betwixt my Lord Elphinston and me in this action we haue in hand. On Setterday last our action vas called, and his majesties letter to the lords red in that grett mater that thay maed all the varld to startt at, concerning the erldom of Douglas and his lands. I haue giuuen the lords satisfaction, and hes ondir my hand befor the lords renuned itt, quhilk is incert in the Bouks of the Session, and thair is no honest man that is nott satisfied with it, bott I houp to giue him satisfaction for yourself. I see my onfreinds hes not spared

(giff thay could) to haue flied vp 3e eiuin my best freinds against me, bott thay ar difceved. I haue spokin both with my Lord Precedentt and Mr Thomas Houp, and 3e shalbe fatiffied in any thing 3e or thay shall think good; so no mor of this att this tym.

Vpon the xviii of this instantt it vas called again: thair thay naimed aine aduocatt, and the man vas my Lord of Durie, Mr Alexander Gibfoun, a thing thocht so strange be all men heir, as the lyk vas neuer hard; for itt is aine ordinarie thing to my Lord Aduocatt to mak substitution of anie in his place, to any aduocatt the partie vill choose; and in any caufs quhaer he may nott compeir himself, bot to naim a lord of the cessioun itt vas neuer hard befor, bot this is nott all; thay haue moued his majestie to vrytt a particular letter to him to accept it; vpon this my partie giuue th furth, that his majestie doth fauor thair caufs better than myn; and altho I knau itt is aine ontreuth, zitt itt grieues me nott a lytill that many peipill heir talks of itt. I vill pray zou and all my freinds thair, to moue his majestie to be indifferentt, and latt the comun courfs of justice go on, and latt thaem mak thaer choifs of any aduocatt thay can, and lat the lords be our judges, and nott to suffer thair triks to haue place. The treu refon that thay vuld haue my Lord of Durie aduocatt is, that he may be fett and nott haue a vott in thatt cawfs, becaufs he is aine ondirstanding honest man, and thay knau any man of ondirstandings vill neuer be on thaer fyd. This pakkett of letters I haue directed in my Lord of Kel-leis absens, to be delyuered onto zou, feiring he should be absentt from courtt for his aun particular effaers; thairfor, giue so he brek vp my letters to him, and giue he be thaer, I desyr euerie on of zou to see others letters, for I vrytt euerie thing to any of zou as itt did cum in my mynd. I am loth to fasche the prince vith continuall vryting to him, bott I vill pray both zou and my Lord of Kellie to remember my service vnto him; and vithall, in all humilitie, to desyr him to hauld hand that no nouasion may be brocht in in my caufs, for than the varld vill think that my Lord Elphinstoun hes mor fauor of my master then I haiue, quhilk vill do me mor herm than all the land is vorth. I haue vryttin tuo lynis (of creditt to my Lord of Kellie or your self) to my Lord Deuk; and



thairfor I pray zou inform him particularlie as I haue vryttin unto zou.  
This is all I can fay for the present ; and so I vill rest

Your louing Cufing,

J. MAR.

As for your aun particular, itt is doin.

Ze shall receiue inclofed in this letter your letter of the 11 bak again according to your defyr ; and I vill pray zou to fend me bak thir tuay letters in this pakkett vith this berar, for I haue only fentt him vp for expedition, becaufe the ordinar pakkett runs so flaulie ; and I pray zou heft him bak to me, for my partie feiks nothing bott delay. My Lord of Sanctandros vnderftanding of this pakkett, defyred me to fend this inclofed vnto zou, quhilk ze shall receiue.

Your louing Goffup,

J. MAR.

Holyroudhoufs, the xx of Junie 1622.

CXCIV.—THE EARL OF MAR TO KING JAMES VI.

OCTOBER 10, 1622.

MOST GRATIOUS SOUERAINE,

Becaus of the warrants directit by your maiestie for paments to my Lord Chancellor, the Marques of Hamiltoun, and Thomas Hudfon, of ther moneyis out of the first and fecond termes pament of

the taxatioune, ther wilbe no moneyis at this nixt Mertimes terme wherewith to buy in ane of these pensionis whiche your maiestie hath appointed to be bought, for laik wherof your maiesties debts will increas, and the possibilitie of pament therof wilbe the harder; for remedy heirof, I do heir present wnto your maiestie my awin simple opinion, leiving to your maiestie your confideratioun to embrace or reiect the samyn.

If your maiestie wilbe pleased that ane hundreth thousand merkis falbe borrowed vpon interest, I hoip so to manage the same, as I shall buy in of gearlie rent to your maiestie, frome these pensioneris, twentie thousand pounds—the rent to be paid for this borrowed money in ane year and ane half, will extend only to ten thousand pounds, and the rent to come into your majesties coffers in that space, will extend to threttie thousand pounds, so as your maiestie shall reffauae three pennyis for one whiche you shall giue out. I dar nocht promise, in regaird of your majesties former warraunts, that this ane hundreth thousand merkis can be paid in schorter tyme nor ane year and ane half after Mertymes, from whiche tyme furth, your maiestie wilbe freed of paiment of the annualrent therof. Iff your majestie allow of this my opinion, and will let me haue your warraunt for paiment of this ane hundreth thousand merkis, with the annuell therof, out of the reddiest of your majesties rents and of the taxatioun (the Marques of Hamilton being first paid), I shall engadge myselff and my frends our credits for borrowing therof. I haue ordanit William Barclay to attend your majestie, and to receave your directioun heirin, whome it will pleas your majestie to trust: And so, beseiking Almightye God to blisse your majestie with many happy dayes, I rest

Your Majesties most humble subiect and fervitor,

J. MAR.

Halyruidhous, the tenth of  
October 1622.

To the King his most Excellent  
Majestie.

## CXCv.—LADY BEATRIX RUTHVEN TO KING JAMES VI.

OCTOBER 10, 1622.

MY MOST HUMBLE SERUICE BEING IN ALL REURANCE REPESANTITT,

Gif it may ples your most excelant maiestie not be offendit withe me, most excelant, most worthi, and most gracios feuit Keing, that I most humbly ons againe beseik your gracios grait maiestie to haue pitie on my most diffretit efftett of me your maiestis most treu and faithfulle seru-  
uant, quha neulyis vnder the daenger, in this next session, to lose and be put fra that littille roume calit Coulland, quhairin I haue remaenit and liuett fence my motheris diffese to this prefeantt tym; and thairfoir I most humbly beseik your maiestie, for Godis caus, and for the lang and faith-  
fulle seruice I maed your maiestie, that your maiestie will be fue gracios to me, as prefantlye, befor the session sit dune, to send ane varand of your maiestis to the counsalle, comandng tham varrie staetlye, that I be nae vayes truubilit or hurt by laue in the peffabille bruing of Coulland for my lyfytyme; vithe ane particuler letter of your maiestis to the schansler, and to the Erile of Mourus, that thay tua may nou be my protekturisse, wnder God, in all my afferis, as the last schansler vas, quha now restis with God: Your maiestie dereking tham this vaye, thay ville affeuritlye do fue. I most humbly beseik your most gracios maiestie, gif this varantt, together with your maiestis particuler letter to the schansler and president, aether to gif thes to the Douk of Lenox, or to the Erile of Huldernese, to send me, that I may go with tham myself, and present tham to thes lordis in your maiestis most princly nainelye naeme.\* Most humbly ex-  
peking this fauuaris of your most excelent maiestie, as I fall euer pray the Eternalle God, of his grait mercie, to grant your maiestie many lang and happie dayes, with the most joyfulle ring of all ertly kingis, to Godis

• Sic.

glorie, your maieftis heiche honour, and to the grait contentment of vs  
all, your maieftis moft loueing feruantis ; euer refting

Your Maieftis moft humble, faithfull, and  
obediant feruant to deithe,

BEATRIX RUTHUEN.\*

Edinbroche, the x of October.

[Indorfed:]

Ladie Coldenknoweis, 10 October 1622.

CXCVI.—THE EARL OF MAR TO KING JAMES VI

NOVEMBER 24, 1622.

MOST GRACIOUSE SOUEREING,

I receiued your maiefties letter of the 21 of October, fhau-  
ing that ze haue maed choifs of Sir Archibald Naper to be trefurer de-  
put of this kingdom, with the motiues mouing your maieftie to tak this  
courfs ; fen your maieftie hath fo refolued, I fhall in all humilitie obey  
your directions ; as for the gentillman, he is knaun to be both iuditious  
and honeft, and as your maieftie wrytts in your aun letter, frie of par-  
tialitie or any factious humer ; and I, vith all my hartt, doo vifhe that all  
your maiefties fubiectes var als free of ther tuo fallts, as I houp tym fhall  
mak knaun to your maieftie that beth he and I ar ; in quhilk refpects your  
maieftie heth made a good chois. For myfelf, my caer and paens fhالبة

\* The writer was a daughter of William first Earl of Gowrie, and sister of John the last Earl. She married Sir John Home of Coldingknowes.

nothing the less in furthering of your maiesties seruice in all things incident to that place\* viche your maiestie beth honored me with: And so, beseiking Allmichtie God to blis your maiestie with many happie days, I rest

Your Maiesties most humble subiect and seruitor,

J. MAR.

Holyroudhouse, the 24th of  
Nouember 1622.

To the Kings most Excellent Maieftie.

CXCVII.—THE EARL OF BUCCLEUCH TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.

[1623 ?]

MY LORD,

I recevett your letter from Andoveer, and dois attend hys majestie resolutione about the particular the counsell rytte in, viche I in thatt shall obey in all humilitie, vhatt it shall pleis hys majestie to command. I dout nott bott my Lord off Nithifdaille vill acquent you vhatt hes bein done att thys last courte, so I vill nott enter in ony particular. For me in thatt service, asseure hys majestie thatt my lyffe shall rather faille then vnwillingnes to doo hym all service, viche I am bond too, and most faithfullie as hys trew subjett. My Lord, I vnderstand that my

\* The office of Lord High Treasurer of Scotland.

oncle, Frances Stewart,\* is partett from heir touards your courtt : vhatt hys defyrs vill be to his majestie I kno nott, yett I vood defyre that faueur from you, as to remember hys majestie faueur touards thos thatt hes bein faithfull servants to hym, and that to thaire pouar is daylie doing his majestie service, thatt if so be his disseins be as befoire to the prejudice off me and others thatt hes done hys majestie service, in thatt particular he may be plesett to schow the continuance off hys royall dispoitione in our faueur, as befoire it hes plesett his majestie to do. I ritt thys nott off any misdout I haue off hys maieftie faueur to me, far aboue my meritte I confes, bott lest hys majestie sould be surprisett, and he persuade hym of vhatt is nott. I am confident your Lordship vill do this faueur to your serviteur, and vithe all speike hys majestie in thys particular about Frances Steuartt; as also befrind vhatt concerns hym, thatt on all occafions vill ever proff your lordships serviteur,

BUCCLEUCHE.

[No Date.]

I vill humblie intratt that faueur off your lordship as to lett me heir from you in thys busines, and to caus delyver thyr other too letters, for viche I shall be ever obligett.

To my verrye honorable good  
 Lord, my Lord Vicount off  
 Annande.

\* Francis, the forfeited Earl of Bothwell, married Lady Margaret Douglas, eldest daughter of David seventh Earl of Angus, and relict of Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch. Francis Stewart was, therefore, brother uterine of Sir Walter Scott, first Baron of Buccleuch, and uncle of Walter (the writer of this letter), who succeeded his father as Lord Scott of Buccleuch in 1611; and who, by patent, dated 16th March 1619, was created Earl of Buccleuch.

CXCVIII.—THOMAS NICOLSON TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.  
JANUARY 27, 1623.

RICH HONORABILL,

My very guid lord, efter dewtifull remembrance of my feruice, I receavit your honouris letter from my guid lord the Earle of Roxburgh, quhairby and be his lordships informatioun of the pains your honour hes takin in my particular, anent my gift of the postmaisterfchip of Colbrandspeth,\* I think my self so tyit to ferue your honour, that I am afchamit of my inhabilitie, quhilk clofis vp the inward affectioun I haue to ferue your honour. Bot feing thair is no obligatioun of impossibilitieis, I doubt not bot your honour will accept of my guid mynd, and vse me as your honouris servand in any thing quhairin my service may be steadable. And becaus, notwithstanding of the difficultie of my erand, your honour wills me in the letter to abyd quhill his maiestie may be movit, I haue takin the bauldnes at this present to putt your honour in remembrance heirof. I haif sent the gift with this gentilman, Archibald Campbell, who will attend your honour heirin. I think my Lord Marques of Hamilton will affist your honour heirin, becaüs the Erle of Roxburgh and the Clerk of Register hes writtin to his lordfchip in my favouris. The only scrupule that withhaldis the kingis maiefty is becaus he will not mak offices hereditary; bot in my particular, thair is no sic daunger as in offices of autoritie and iurisdiction. For, first, it is ane service and a thraldome quhilk I wald never vndergoe, if it wer not to eschew ane gritter oppreffioun, if the office wer dispoit to men of clan, quho wald, vnder colour thair of, oppresse me and my tennentis; nixt, it is only within my awin land, and sua can do no man harme; and last, thair is no schyir quhairin his maiefty hes not heritabill mairis or servandis, quhilk ar allowit as maist necessar for his maiefteis feruice. The lyk is in my case;

\* See Melros Papers, vol. ii. p. 494.

for if I had the office heritabill, I wald caus mak provisioun boath for sufficient horffes and intertenement of gentilmen passingeris, quhilk is aluterly neglectit, and can not weill be redressit, in respect of the waiknes of the postmaisteris; quhair, be the contrair, I wald be compellit be my infestment to mak sufficient provisioun for hors and man. These argumentis, I think, wilbe sufficient to move his maiestie; bot the grittest argument I rely vpon is your honouris favour towardis me vnderferved; for the quhilk I will remane

Ever your honouris bund man,

TH. NICOLSON.

Edinburgh, 27 Januarij 1623.

To the richt honourabill my verry  
guid Lord, the Lord Vicount of  
Annand.

CXCIX.—THE VISCOUNT OF STORMONT TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.

FEBRUARY [1623?]

MY WERAY HONORABILL GUD LORD AND LUVING SUNE,

Thir presents ar onle to let zou knaw quhow gled I ame to heir off your preferment,\* quhilk I thocht to hef knavne by your avine letter, for so ze affurit me at our last miting that ze vald do nothing in your avine afers bot ze vald acquent me with the same with the first of your frindis; bot since, sen ze hef dune so vill, and I think all your freindis heir vill be gled, and none mor nor myselff, for the quhilk we that ar your freindis heir hes grayt caus to thank God for the same, and your lordschip selff mor nor enay; vtherfor, God hes the hert of all creatur in his handis, quha disposis all thingis at his plesur in the avine tyme. Now,

\* The elevation of John Murray to the peerage, as Viscount of Annand.



my gud lord, fen ze hef gotine zour preferment by God and zour grafivs mester, let it be zour gritest ker to be thankfull, and that God will continow his blifings with zow, and vill continow zour mesters louf in gifin mor and mor. And I pray zow let not zour preferment draw zou ava fre zour vuntit atendens vpon zour mester that hes bene sua grafivs to zow: let zour thankfulnes be knavine to the varild, and sfer nather penis nor trevell in zour atendens, mor now nor ze hef dune befor. Sune, I lef this to that God that hes direkit zow in all zour afers to direk zow now sefer frome him, and he vill gif zow mor nor ze kane vis or cref. Now, sune, I most end, and I recommend zow and all zour afers to the protectione of Almychte God. Zit, sune, I most be trubilsum, and intret zour vuntit fauour to be kerfull of zour servand, my auld mane, quhume I vis recomendit to my grafivs mester, quha promist to me that he vald prefer him to sune servis. My hert sune, remember quhow stedabill ze hef beine by the ples that ze hed in zour mesters servis, not onle to me, bot to menay vtheris. Remember quhat it is to hef ane trow frind in ane ples of credit; and now since zour credit is avanfit, and I ame fertene ze hef credit boithe with zour grafivs mester, and with them that hes most credit abut him, extend zour credit, and ples Mungo\* in sum ples of credit abut his maiestie or the prens, for the varild is no so constant, bot the graytest may hef ado with ane trow frind sumtyme, and I vill be gud for his trowthe and duate to zow. My hert sune, remember quhat I hef wretine, and be kerfull to pleis him and extend zour credit, for I houp ze fall niver repent the same. Sua I rest, and fall remene,

Zour Lordschips trow friend to  
ferff zow,

STORMONT.

To my weray honorabill gud Lord and  
luing sone, my Lord Vicountt off  
Annand.

\* Fourth son of John first Earl of Tullibardine. He became, upon the death of the writer of this letter, on the 27th of August 1631, by force of a special remainder in the patent of creation, second Viscount of Stormont.

## CC.—THE LORDS OF PRIVY COUNCIL TO KING JAMES VI.

JULY 15, 1623.

MOST SACRED SOUERANE,

Thair wes a complaint maid to your maiesties counsell, be the Earle of Bugcleugh, the last counsell day, propoiting, that quhairas by a custome vncontrauerted, and in commoun practize betuix the twa kingdomes thir mony yeires bigane, the commissiounaris on ather fyde wer allowit, be thame felfis, thair freindis or seruandis, to follow and perfew fugitiues fleeing frome the one cuntrey to the other, and to apprehend thame, and bring thame bak to thair tryall, whilk wes a speciall meane to suppres the forder growthe of thift, and wes a grite scair to lymmaris and malefactouris to offend. And that he, as one of the commissiounaris ouer the Middlethyris, haueing directit certane gentlemen, who are authorized be your maiesties warrand, in the executioun of some pointis of seruice concerning the Middlethyris, to apprehend one Johnne Hay, a commoun and notorious theif and lymmair, who wes fugitiue, and fled oute of this cuntrey to England for thift, that thay wer perfewit be a number of Sir Raulff Gray his men, houndit oute be him, the fugitiue tane of thair handis, and thay thame felfis maid prissonaris, till they fand caution to be answerable to thair tryale in England. And he forder complenit, that whereas the lawis of this kingdome admittis summar and fauourable iustice in materis of thift and wrongis falling oute betuix the kingdomes, quhair of the subiectis on that fyde hes had goode prooffe in all thair adois presented to the consideratioun of the iustice heir, that notwithstanding the lyke meafour of iustice is not grantit to the subiectis of this kingdome, who, when thay challenge ony of thair goodis in England, and craveis redres and restitutioun to be maid vnto thame, according to that mutuall goode forme and ordour whilk aught to be interteyneed betuix

the kingdomes, and is verie respectiuelie kept on this fyde, that thay ar putt of and remittit to the commissionaris and iusticeis of assise in thair ordinarie circuitis; quhairthrow the growthe of thift hes a daylie progres, malefactouris vpoun hoip of impvntie ar encourageit to offend, your maiesteis subiectis ar frustrat of iustice, and that goode correspondence and mutuall concurrence whilk fould be intertenyed betuix your maiesties officiaris on ather fyde, for suppreffing of thift and pvnisheing of malefactouris is interrupted and neglectit. Whereof, at the humble requieit and desire of the said earle, we haif heirby thocht meete to acquent your maiestie, to the intent that youre maiestie, in the excellencie of youre wisdom, may tak fuche ordour thairin as shalbe fittest for the goode of your maiesties subiectis of bothe kingdomes. And so, with the remembrance and continewance of oure vncessant prayeris vnto God for your maiesties lang and happie reiggn, we rest

Your Maiesties most humble and obeydent  
subiectis and feruitouris,

GEORGE HAY.  
SANCT ANDREWS.  
NITHISDAILL.

J. MAR.  
MORTON.  
GLENCAIRNE.

Haliruidhous, xv. July 1623.

To the King his most Sacred and Excellent Maiestie.

[Indorfed :]

Counsell, concerning the E. of  
Buckleughes complainte of  
S<sup>r</sup> Ralphe Grayes people,  
15 July 1623.

CCI.—SIR JAMES BAILLIE TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.

OCTOBER 10, 1623.

MY MOST HONORABLE GOOD LORD,

Pleas your lordship, I have mett with William Dik, but hath not as yet concluded with him. I fie gif he vndertak to furnishe ellevene hundreth pundis, your lordship muft before the terme, and before he come out of Paries, give vnto his factour the vther thowfand pundis, whiche will outred my Lord Nithisdall and Bacleuch. But in this I fall be fullie refolved befor I fie your lordship and part with William Dik. I hoip to be at Roiftoun this Setterday, and fo foone as your lordship is able to gett me difpatched, I mynd to returne homeward, both for your lordships awin caws and myne. I will not dubt but your lordship will be thinking to gett all thingis done to my contentment, for I falbe forie at my hart to fie any thing difcontent yow. I pray your lordship confer with the marques, and vnderftand his lordships mynd befor I come, and both of you enter with his maieftie anent Sir Archbald,\* to quit the juftice clarkship for fome tytle of honour, and that I may be dealt with for my place; and be fparing to promes too mucche in my name, but promes to deall with me. Do in this particular as your lordship thinkis meiteft, and I befeech your lordship have it begune befor I come, for I may not ftay on it. Gif the marques delay tyme, and gif this takis no effect, I muft pas all in Sir Archbaldis his name. Tak head that Sir Robert Douglas and his freindis mifinforme not the prince of me. Speak the Duk of Buringhame, wha I know will fie me gett no wrong. Pleas your lordship, refave this letter frome your honourable and good ladie, whome

\* Sir Archibald Napier. This attempt to induce him to resign his pretensions to the office of Justice-Clerk was not successful, as Sir Archibald obtained the appointment (which he, however, retained a very short time) in November following. He was, in May 1627, created Lord Napier of Merchiston.

I have found at this tyme moft loving and kynd. So I tak my leave to meating, and reftis

Your Lordships loving cufyne,  
to ferve yow,

JAMES BAILLIE.

Kingftreat, this 9 October 1623.

Since the wrytting heirof, I come to the Exchange, and fpak with William Dik,\* who is content to fend down his man with me, that befor I go to Scotland thingis may be left at a certantie, and himfelf will wrytt to yow his awin mynd.

London, this 9 October 1623.

This morning I haue feene the marques go to the Starchamber, fo that I know not what to do. I pray your lordship let me hear your lordships awin opinion, whidder I fall come downe or ftay till the marques come.

This 10 of October 1623.

To my moft honourable good  
Lord the Vicount of An-  
nan, theas.

[Below the Seal :]

This letter wes twys opened, ons  
for William Dik, and this morn-  
ing when I did fié the Marques  
going to the Star Chamber.

\* Afterwards Sir William Dick, and Lord Provost of Edinburgh, in 1638, 1639. He was, at one period, perhaps the most opulent merchant of his time, but subsequently he fell into difficulties, and died in poverty. There is an exceeding rare pamphlet, in small folio, containing an account of his sufferings, with three engravings by William Vaughan; in the first of which Sir William is seen mounted on horseback, with attendants, shipping, army, and a town in the back-ground. In the second, he is represented in prison, with his wife, attended by the jailor and his assistants; and in the third, he is in his coffin, with his family mourning over him. A copy of this curious volume was sold for twenty-three guineas at the sale of Sir James Lake.

## CCII.—THE VISCOUNT OF LAUDERDALE TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.

NOVEMBER 27, 1623.

MY VERIE HONORABILL GOOD LORDE AND BROTHER,

The good proof your lordship hath often giuen whatt place my requeifts hath fund with yow makes me oftentymes more importunatie to be urged to be a footer to your lordship, nor either reafone or difcretion can fuffer me to obeye. Houbeitt, at this tyme I can not refuis to fecond ther entreatyes, who I knaw will be humble footers to your lordship in the behalf of my Perfone of Lauder, Mr James Burnett, who defyreth be my Lorde of St Androes (who I knaw can not in dewtye refuis anye of your lordships demandes) to be tranfported to the cure of the kirke of Libbertoun, wher I am lykwayis a parifhoner. The particular informatione I will remitt to his brother, your lordships fervitour, Mr Robert Burnett, who, att his laft cumming home, delivered a letter of your lordship anent youre reductione againft Harden, which, I fhall be verie cairfull, maye goe right; and in everie thinge els, fhall be readie to difcharge the dewtye of

Your Lordships moft affectionat brother  
to ferue yow,

LAUDERDAILL.\*

Edinburgh, 27 of Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1623.

To my verie honorabill good Lorde  
and brother, my Lorde Vicount  
of Annand.

\* John, second Lord Maitland of Thirlstane, created Viscount of Lauderdale by patent, dated at Whitehall, 2d April 1616, to him and his heirs-male and successors in the Lordship of Thirlstane, and Earl of Lauderdale by patent to him and his heirs-male, bearing the name and arms of Maitland, dated 14th March 1624. He died in January 1645, and was buried in the church of Haddington. Drummond of Hawthornden wrote an epitaph upon him. He was the father of the celebrated Duke of Lauderdale.

## CCIII.—SIR JAMES BAILLIE TO THE VISCOUNT OF ANNAND.

[NOVEMBER 1623 ?]

MY MOST HONOURABLE GOOD LORD,

Pleas your Lordship, I refaved your lordships of the 8 of this instant, wherin it appeiris your lordship hes writtene a letter to Mr Thomas, whiche your lordship thinkis sufficient to informe both Mr Robert Burnett and me, as indeid it had beene so, gif it had comit to Mr Thomas Hoips handes, but we cannot fynd fuch a letter : Always for the buffines of Bonitoun, I hoip we fall do the best we may, for your lordship is mutche beholdene to my Lord Chancelair, and Mr Thomas Nicol-fone does his part bravelie. As for all your lordships effairis, I fall tend theme as my awin, and do theirin, I hoip, to your lordships contentment. I delyvered your lordships letter to my Lord Kinclevene presentlie, who gave your lordship many thankis for the fame and the letter of exchange. I culd not fhawe it to my Lord of Mar als your lordship defyred, becaus it was closed ; but I read the postscript of your letter to his lordship, who randered your lordship many thankis, and sayd he cared not what my Lord Kinclevene wriett, for he had no just caws. Your lordship will per-fave be Robert Burnettis letter how your action goes : He missed the pakat the last week : your lordships letter is within this pakat, whiche your lordship may break vp and tak your awin : this him self fayes. In tyme coming he will give me your lordships letter to be sent, for I know the Duk his grace is fomtyme absent. I thank your lordship that wraett to my Lord of Melroes, that I putt your lordship in mynd of his maiesties

tokene : His lordship gave me many thankis, and delyvered me theas last letteris out of his awin hand, and sent at night to fie gif I wold wrytt any ansswer. I hear no thing of Harbart Maxwellis coming to this towne. I feir he come not at all. It merwellis me that he never wryttis his mynd to me. A greater man wold have honored me with ane ansswer of my letteris ; but your lordship is wys, and knawes how to come by your awin. Had he comit heir, I thought to have takene himself, his sone, and sone in law, bund for the fowme to Witfonday, whiche I perfave he eshewes. Your lordship rememberis what charge his maiestie gafe me anent Sir Jhone Buchannan, and I wes going about to have drawene him to have gevene his maiestie all contentment ; but I perfave the commissiouneris of the rentis hath mett vpoun a letter of his maiesties, writtene in favouris of my Lord Chancelar, that gif they fynd it meitter to fewe it thene to seek the rayfing of the tenentis, that thene my Lord Chancelar fuld have the benefit of the fynes of the feweris for his help, and releif of his lordships dettis. I beleve the lordis hes found that the fewing is the best way for his maiestie, and that howsoever Sir Archbald Napier hes beene informed, and wold have stryvene to improve the rent for his maiesties profit, yit that way wes vncertane for his maiestie and succeffouris ; wheras, being fewed to the heiest rentall, it will euer be a sure rent heirefter to the crowne. Muche reafouning hes beene in this, and many thinkes my Lord Chancelar not wys to tak that, I meane the fynes, for his maiesties help and revard, for the people ar poor, and hes beene rayfed to als great a rent as the land is able to pay to the lordis and earles of Orknay, and fewe of theme will desyre fewes, so that, gif his maiestie be not gracious to him vtherways, he hes sped evell. I protest to God, thoghe himself go over as he intendis, I do think he fall repent his jornay, and never mak fyve shilling the frank. So that, gif your lordship heir any thing of this when the commissiouneris ansswer comes, tell your opioun to his maiestie frelie, to lat his freindis their at court fie that your lordship is his freind, and lat his maiestie know that I forgat not his directioun in any one poynt. Sir Archbald Napier merwellis your lordship never wreatt to him his maiesties mynd concerning the Justice



Clerkis place;\* but I think Sir George Elphinfone is not so fure of it as is talked of heir, in respect your lordship hes never writtene. Do as your lordship thinkis good and fittest for his maiesties service. I think I gaue your lordship thankis in my last for your lordships newe yeir gwyft or tokene to my doghter Sophei, and now my wyf, who hes read your lordships letter, sendes hir most hartlie thankis with the remembrance of hir humble service to your lordships self and your noble ladie. I pray God grant that we may have yow both long to the foir. So, wishing your lordship and hir both all happines, I remaine

Your Lordships loving Cufyne  
to ferve yow,

JAMES BAILLIE.†

[No date.]

For the landis of Wamphray, and all thingis of that erand, we fall meit and do the lykeliest, and I think your lordship is of a good opinioun.

CCIV.—JOHN ASHBURNHAM TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR HAY.

APRIL 8, 1624.

RIGHT HONORABLE,

The queene, my mistrife, being folicited by this bearer, James Reid, to recommend vnto your honour the confideration of his

\* Napier was appointed Lord Justice Clerk, 23d November 1623. So this letter, which is without date, must have been written shortly before that event.

† Weldon mentions Baillie, amongst other favourites of James, as getting a "*pretty*" estate, and observes, "Old servants should get some moderate estates to leave to posterity." Secret History of Court of James I. Edinburgh, 1811, 8vo. vol. i. p. 372.

estate, and havinge had information from his captain of his true and valiant service in the warrs of Bohemia and the Palatinat, herselfe commiserating his hurts and misfortunes, hath given me the bouldnesse, in these fewe lines, to signifie as much vnto your honour, and to desire you, in her name, to shew him such favour, as shall stand with his desert and your convenience ; for which her maiestie will be readie to acknowledge the obligation at your hands, and myselfe bound ever to remaine,

Your Honoris faithfull and humble servant,

JO. ASSHEBURNHAM.\*

Hagve, the 8<sup>th</sup> of Aprill 1624.  
St. Novo.

To the Right Honourable Sir  
George Hay, Lord Chauncellor of Scotland, &c. at  
Edinburgh.

\* John Ashburnham has obtained an historical celebrity from having been one of the two persons by whose means Charles I. fell into the hands of his enemies after his escape from Hampton Court. Whether this was the result of accident or design, is one of those controverted points which can never be satisfactorily settled, although the presumptions are much in favour of the former supposition. His descendant, the present Earl Ashburnham, with the view of vindicating his ancestor's reputation, published in 1830, at London, in two volumes 8vo, "A Narrative of John Ashburnham—of his attendance on King Charles the First from Oxford to the Scotch Army—and from Hampton Court to the Isle of Wight. Never before printed. To which is added, A Vindication of his Character and Conduct from the misrepresentations of Lord Clarendon. By his Lineal Descendant and Present Representative." The biographers of Ashburnham seem not to have been aware of his ever having been in the service of the Queen of Bohemia. He died on the 15th of June 1671, in the 68th year of his age.

CCV.—THE EARL OF SEAFORTH TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR.

JULY 4, [1624?]

MY WERE HONORABILL GOOD LORD,

The Inglifch gentilman quho was recommendit heir be your lordfchip, efter as he taried fum dayis with me, he thairefter vent to Lochew, and faw fick voodis as was thair, and vent to Lochcarron, and faw the voodis and fick commodities as he thocht nicht beft ferue his purpofe. Sick certanty as I haue gottin of him, your lordfchip may perceaue by theis tua letteris of his, quhilk efter as your lordfchip hes confiderit them, your lordfchip wilbe pleafit to think on the beft vay how to draw on a bargan tuixt him and me for the voodis of Lochcarron; for I mynd to keip the voodis of Lochcarron for him, fince thej may beft do his turne, and may mak me maift benefeit; fua that gif he cumis fchortlie as he vreatis, I affuir myfelfe he will adrefs himfelf to your lordfchip, efter quhilk tyme how far your lordfchip may vork with him, your lordfchip fall acquent me. Gif vther vayes he cum nocht befor the 15 or 20 of Auguft, it will pleis your lordfchip to vreat to him that he will nocht find me to bargan vith wnles he mak fpeid. Since this is one of the beft things I haue, both to get your lordfchip and me moneyis, your lordfchip fall tak your avin confideratioun heirin quhat is fitteft to be done with him. I creaw your lordfchips pardoun for putting zow to this panis.

The workis that ar at Lochew, I found at Vitfunday the furnace blowin outt, and no ftok provydit; fua that, quhill I may get a ftok mead, I haue difmiffit all the feruandis, except the faw millis, quhilk I will follow. I conducit vith George, your lordfchips nephew, for to fet both the furnace he vreatt till Lambes; bot things hes interveinit fo to him, that the

pairt concernit me of the vorks ar to do, quhilk I pafs. He is in deilling vith me for the things that ar about that loch of Lochew. Since nothing as zit hes taken effect, I spair to vret any thing thairanent. Gif ony thing be done, I fall haue your lordschip aduertefit, quhair be that or I had ony thing ather in that of Lochew or the vther, I may be aduyfit be your lordschip. This, with the remembrance of my best seruice,

Your Lordschips maist affectionit freind and seruant,

SEAFORTH.\*

4 Julij.

On my vay to Lochew.

Gif anie thing your lordschip dois with this Inglish man, be way of bargan tuix me and him, I fall performe the same at his heircuming. Gif vther uayis your lordschip thinks good to bring him to ane point, and to aduertise me, in that do as ze think best: I fall follow your lordschips aduyse. Sick letteris as beis direct to him, he defyrit George Hay to fend them to Mr Galloway, or to James Douglas. I tak vp no les nor that he and George thinks to partak togidder.

To the Right Honorabill my  
noble good Lord, my Lord  
Chancellour of Scotland.

\* Colin, second Lord Kintail, was created Earl of Seaforth by patent to him and his heirs-male, dated 3d December 1623. This letter was probably written in 1624. His brother George succeeded him in 1633, and became the second Earl.

## CCVI.—SCOTISH SUBJECTS AT DANTZIC TO KING JAMES VI.\*

AUGUST 30, 1624.

TO THE KINGIS MAIESTY OF GREAT BRITANE, &c. OUR  
GRATIOUS AND SOVERAIGNE LORD,

Your maiesties lettre, sent to ws with Hughe Mowat, your maiesties fervaunt, hes manifested the fatherlie cair quhilk your maiefty hes of our wiellfair, and to protect vs frome the oppreffioune of thir straungeris amang quhome we lief; and trewlie we acknowlege that his diligence with your maiesties authority hes bein very profitable to ws. Bot of lait their is ane generall edict promulgat, quhairby all straungeris (quha ar not burgeffis) ar commanded to remowe out the townis of Dantzic and Lueinsbrig (althocht we knau that the executioun is onelie bended aganis these of the Scottis natione quha ar not frie), and we can coniecture no other reafone for this vnaccuftumed rigour, bot the exorbitant numberis of young boyis and maidis, vnable for any seruice, transported hier zierlie, bot especially this fommer, quha baithe scandalizes the natione, and ar burdenable to ws. Hierfoir we most humblie besiek your maieftie, that (by the advys of this gentillman) your maieftie wald prevent the scandall in tyme comming, and by your maiesties favorable lettres to the magistratis of this land, hinder the executioun of theis edictis, leaft we be ranked with Jewes and Infidellis; and we (as in

\* In the *Analecta Scotica*, vol. ii. p. 385, a letter is printed from Patrick Gordon, the Poet, to James VI. in which he gives a very curious account of the dissolute morals of the Scotch in Dantzic.

dewtie bund) fall pray continewallie for your maiesties lang and happie regne,

Your Maiesties most humble and distressed subiectes  
of the Scottis natione, remaining in Dantzik and  
Lueinbrig,

JAMES MORESONE.

JAMES RUTHVENE.

GEORGE BLEWHOUS.

WILLIAM LYNDSEY.

WILLIAM RAMSAY.

DAVID OUCHTERLONY.

THOMAS MORTIMER.

DAVID MAXWALL.

With fundrie wtheris quhais names cannot heir be contened.

Dantzik, this penult August 1624.

To the Kingis Maiefty of Great  
Britane, &c. our Gracious and  
Soveraigne Lord.

CCVII.—FRANCIS HAY\* TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR.

NOVEMBER 5, 1624.

RYCHT HONORABILL AND MY VERIE GOOD LORD,

Pleis yow receaue tuo letteris that I had out of France.  
Ane other of my Lord Ambaffadouris fervantis wryttis to me, that Monfr.  
de Cheuereux wes at the Begnieux, making greatt preparatioune to  
come ouer, bot the work men ar stayit, which makis him think the  
match is not far advanced, and sayes the Cardinall ruillis all, and the  
Cardinall may not offend the Pope, and the Pop must not displeas the

\* Probably the chancellor's nephew. He was a writer to the signet, and acquiring the lands of Balhousie in Perthshire, was designed by that title. Wood's Douglas, vol. ii. p. 48. From him the present Earl of Kinnoul is descended.

Deuillis bairnes, the Spaiyardis. He that brocht ouer this pacquet wes dispatched that fame nicht he come, and my Lord Buckinghame, who went to London, and wes not to retorne for aucht days, come bak with this pacquet to gett ane anfuer dispatchit, as he did. The morrow we go to Newmercat, and dynes by the way in Chesterford Park. They talk of the Duik of Buckinghames going to France, and manie noblemen to go with him, as Salisburie, Montgomerie, Dorsett, and vtheris. Pray God all thingis wer in reddines for that jurney. This in haift, finding my Lord Kellie to fend away a packet. I reft,

My Lord, your Lordshippis humble servitour,

FR. HAY.

Royftone, the 5 of Nouember 1624.

I pray your lordship remember the Nafmythis buffines, and help Andro Scott.

To the Rycht Honorabill my  
verie good Lord, my Lord  
Chancellour of Scotland,

CCVIII.—THE LORD CHANCELLOR HAY TO KING JAMES VI.

NOVEMBER 8, 1624.

MOST SACRED SOUERAINE,

Amongst vther lettres from your maiestie, whiche I cannot so quiklie anfuer, I reffauitt this day one, bearing that your maiestie is crediblie informed that the Lord Kinclevin gave way to my bufinefs con-

cerning Orkenay; but your maiestie not knowing the conditiones, requyreth me to aduertise your maiestie how farre wes commoned betuix vs, and whither anye thing wes concluded, and what it wes. And whereas the said Lord of Kinclavin\* demandeth fix and threttie thousand pounds Scotts for his satisfiacion in that matter, that your maiestie is well pleased that I find out the meanes how he may be payit or satisfieit without your maiesties hurte. The passages betuix the Lord Kinclavin and me, as I mot anfuer to God and your maiestie, fa farre as my memorie ferveth me, have bein these, and no vther.

After my returne from England in December 1623, or thair<sup>a</sup>about, he came to me in the logging I have in your maiesties pallace heir, and sayd that he wes informed that I wes about the fewing of Orkenay, and that he culd hardlie believe that I wold feik the ouerthrow of his house. I said his lordships informatioun wes trew; but that I wes perswaded that neuer he nor anye of his wold get that erldome nor anye subiect els. He said that I wold neuer mak 30<sup>m</sup> markes of that busines (whatsoever hopes I had of more). I anfuered that then I suld have ane ill bargaine, for I doutid my chaiges wold furmount that, befor all wer settled. Some other wordes he vttered, and pairted discontent. After that, I hard not from his lordship againe (that I remember), till the verie day I tooke my journey from Dalkeith, in August last, towardes your sacred maiesties court, whiche being Sondag, and I having dyned and haistening to fermon about elleuin a cloke, to be at Lawder tymoullie befor nicht, he cam to me in the street, and asked if I meant to go on in the businefs of Orknay. I sayd that not, and that I had left thinking anye more of it. "Nay," quod he, "ye shall not do so. I stopped yow, and I will

\* John Stewart, second son of Robert Earl of Orkney, was created a Peer by the title of Lord Kinclavin, 10th August 1607. He was subsequently advanced to the dignity of Earl of Carrick, but although his creation was in July 1628, he was not admitted to the dignity for more than two years, owing to a doubt expressed by the Peers, how far the title of Carrick, which was the proper style of the Prince of Scotland, could be communicated to a subject. His Lordship explaining that he took the title from a place called Carrick, on his own estate in Orkney, and not from the Earldom in Ayrshire, the difficulty was got over, and he was received as an Earl. He died in 1652 without male issue, when the titles became extinct, his Lordship leaving only one daughter, and the dignities being limited to the heirs-male of his body. In the year 1733, a notice was inserted in one of the newspapers, that these honours were to be claimed by one having right to them.



worke it againe for yow." "That is more then I know" (said I), "that ye stayd it. As euer it be, I meane to deale no further in it." And my words wer as my thoughts, for as I mot be sated, when I cam to your maiestie at Ruffod, I had no intention euer to meddle anye more with it. The rest of his wordes at that tyme he remembreth better then I, who took na great head to them, as having cast of all thinking of Orkenay. He sayde he wold wryt vp to the Erl of Annandale, who wold speak with me more particularlie. The Erl of Annandale, I think, can remember whither at anye tyme of my being thair, his lordship and I had euer anye conference anent the giving off my lands, but for the pryce. When I cam bak from England last, the Lord Kinclevin asked me if I had done anye thing anent Orkenay? I said, "Yes, more then I thocht to have done at our pairting." "Then," quod he, "ye will let me have Kinclevin and Innernytie." "That ye shall," quod I, "and als cheape as I can give them to anye man in Scotland." "Nay," quod he, "ye will let me have them frielie, and I will give yow the half of the precept I am to get from his maiestie." This to me was a motion I neuer dreamed of, and made me to reply, that I wold not give him ane aker of myne heretage for your maiesties gift to me; nor had I euer in my lyffe anye share in any vther mans gift. He insifted to make me think that his meaning at Dalkeith wes fuche, and that his lettres wrytten vp to court, procured your maiesties and the princes highnesse fauour to me in that particular, both whiche may be trew, but not to my knowlege. After this, he cam to me to Perth, and thair, passing from his former imaginarie grounds, he asked of me the pryce of my lands, whiche, because I wes desyrous to sell, and rather to him then anye vther, for his contentment, I told him at the seconde and last word, wes fourtie four thousand markis, or tuentie nyne thousand and sum odde pounds, with a discharge of a desperat det of four thousand pounds, for whiche my poore brother wes obliſt to his lordship for the Laird of Clunye. He then asked me if I wold accept a precept for my payment? I sayde that I wold be loth to be a futar to the thesaurar for the pryce of my lands, but if his precept did bear to be payde be myselff off the few deutie of Orknay, I wold accept it for payment, and put his lordship in present possession of the lands. Thus we left, and at

his desyre I wret to the Erl of Annandale and Mr Maulde. If in this I erred in naming so fure and constant a pairt of your maiesties reuenew to be subiect to his precept, I crave your maiesties pardon. I know it is nather my dutie, nor hath it bein my custome, to shaw men the wayes to draw or keep moneyes out of your maiesties coffers; but having vnderstoode from your owne sacred mouth, that ye wer pleased to grant him a precept, I thocht it a point not so materiall for your maiestie out of what pairt of your rents the same wer payde, and to me, ouercharged with dets, important to be fure of payment for so good a pairt of my heretage. The tyme your maiestie wes gratiousslie pleased to grant the abatement off the fyve thousand markes of the rent to me, and to aske me what I thocht wold content the Lord of Kinclevin, I sayd to your maiestie that I believed if he culd have my land of Kinclevin and Innernytie, they wold content him; and if your maiestie wold be pleased to abate so muche of the 40<sup>m</sup> markes per annum of the rent of Orkenay, as these lands payde to me yearlie, he suld have them. Your maiestie ansuered me, that ye wald diminishe the rent no more. "Then your maiestie must grant him a precept," sayd I; and so your maiestie bad me think of it: and I may lang think of it, befor I satisfie the last pairt of your maiesties lettre, willing me to find out the meanes to gett him moneyes without your maiesties hurte; for wher shall these moneyes be fund, whiche nather ar, nor shall, nor can cum into your coffers? I have bein tedious, but it is out of a desyre to ansuer your sacred maiesties lettre in all pointes. The summe is, that, as God is my witness, I neuer made any condition with the Lord Kinclevin for giving any pairt of my lands, bot for payment, as to vthers; nor to share with him in any precept, nor till my last retorne from your maiestie, did I euer conceive that his lordship had anye suche meaning anent my lands, but by way of sale. What his owne thoughts have bein he knoweth best; or what stopp he made to me first, or what way he gave last, your most sacred maiestie and your most excellent son know, not I, whom, albeit priuate difficulties have oft made ane importune, ane oft and happie beggar from that soueraine bountie; yet reason, conscious of my small worth and poore seruices, hath taught to acquiesce euer cheerfullie, with your good pleasure in grant or refusal (whereof I

remember few), without anye curious enquirye of the motives to the one or vther; resting ever confident, that as I serve your maiestie with as muche loyaltie, sincere zeale and affection, as euer seruant did master, your maiestie (whom God of his mercye to vs, mot long preserue in helth and all prosperitie) will neuer suffer to want, neither me nor the children of

Your most sacred Maiesties most faithfull and most  
humble fervant and creature,

GEORGE HAY.\*

Hallir. this 8 off Nou<sup>r</sup>. 1624.

[Indorfed :]

The Lord Chancellour concerning  
what past betuixte him and the Lord  
Kincleuin, 8 Nouemb. 1624.

CCIX.—THE LORD CHANCELLOR HAY TO KING JAMES VI.

[1624 ?]

My resolution to execute your maiesteis commandements is, and euer shallbe, fuche as ought in so meere and obliged a creature; bot becaus I know that, from that fontaine of reason which iustifieth the all your

\* George Hay, second son of Peter Hay of Meginche, who was brought up to the profession of the law, was knighted and appointed Clerk Register in 1616. He was made Lord High Chancellor of Scotland, 16th July 1622, upon the death of the Earl of Dunfermline. On the 4th May 1627, he was created Viscount of Duplin, and Lord Hay of Kinfauns, and 24th May 1633, Earl of Kinnoul. He died at London, 16th December 1634. His body was conveyed to Scotland, and interred, 19th August 1635, in Kinnoul Church, where a sumptuous monument was erected to his memory. An account of the ceremonial of his interment will be found in the "Heraldic and Historical Tracts of Sir James Balfour." Edinburgh, 1837. 12mo.

actions, your maiestie is pleased to let flow, euen to the meanest ministers, so much as may cleare their proceedings from the blame of grosse and incongruous errors; and that, since the ressaing off your maiesties last instructions, I can by no meditation light vpon a faire formulaire of to round a discharge of all former treaties for marriage as is prescribed by the said instructions, and that, by conference with Sir Thomas Edmonds, I finde myself rather perplexed further then helped herein; I haue aduentured by these humble to intreat your maiestie to consider how (in a treatie off marriage, wherein so many propones and answers have been interchanged, reasons have been alleaged by either syde; a willingness to performe hath been expressed with protestations; a dealing with the king off Spaine during the tyme off this treatie hath been furnished by many, boasted of by his ministers, and scarce denied by your maiesties; an extraordinair ambassadour hath been sent out of your bedchamber, with a warrant vnder your great seale, to treat and conclude a marriage), it fall agrie with your maiesties royalle procedure in all your other actions, that we begin with a discharge of all former dealing and treaties in that marriage, and that, because your maiestie dothe thinke their last answers not to be worthy off your maiesties self and your sone.

Now, if they aske vs in what poyntes your maiestie dothe finde them unworthy or onreasonable, we must say, either that your maiestie hath not been pleased to let vs know so much, or cum to the particulars, whiche we dar not, nor may not by our instructions. And iff we shall stand vpon the discharge of all former dealing, without examination off any article, zit with whate faces shall we bothe discharge all former treaties, and requyre them to make new offers iff thei will have any farther dealing for marriage? May they not iustlie vrge us to know what conditiones will content vs, since these alreadie made do not? Shall we reiect their conditiones offered, and propose none for your maiestie?

This seimethe to vs, and we feare shall seim to thame, a harsh and peremptorie forme off dealing in a treatie of marriage with a state and countrey to whome your maiesties loving care in appeasing these last troubles, and the expectatioun of alliance, hath so indeared your maiesties freindship, as hath been well testified by the concurse, welcoming accla-

matiounes and prayers for your maiestie, since my cumming into this land. We think this treatie of mareage micht have bein more easilie, and with less din, shaken off by him who hathe delt in it hithertils ; and that I, your extraordinarie embassadour, micht thereafter have cum, and to better purpose have talked off the continuance and assurance of your maiesteis friendship towards this king, crowne and cuntrey, rather then with fuche a neidles sollemnitie off ane extraordinary ambassadour, to proclayme to so michtie and so well affected a nation a neglect of thair alliance. These things I have presumed to represent vnto your maiestie.

[Indorfed :]

Sir George Hay, Chancleour  
of Scotland, hes letter to King  
James the 6, concerning Prince  
Charles hes mariage.

CCX.—JAMES VI. TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR HAY.

JANUARY 12, 1625.

JAMES R.

Right trustie and right veill belouett counfellour, we greit you veill. Much earnist fuit being made to ws by the French embassador, in the behalfe of the Roman Catholicks (as they terme them) of that our kingdome, requyring that inregaird of this mariage (vich aught to be a tyme of publike reioyfeing, vherin all persons ought to be set at libertie), we vold shou . them fauor, we wer pleased to ureat to the Archbischop of St Androus to fu[r]cease al troubling of them, ather by citation to compeir befor any iudgs or by excommunicatioun, till our furdur pleafur should be knowen, the said recusants giuing no publick offence. And therfor ve haue thought guide by these presentts to acquaint you with our forsaide pleafur, to the intent that, if any buffines fall araffe vpon any former ex-

communication or horning for mater of religioun vich fall be brought befor our counsell, ye fall cause it be diffimifed vith the least flure or noyse vich may be : And this recommending to your fpeciall care, we bid you fairveill. Giuen at our manour of Theoballds, the 12 day of Januarij 1625.

King James Letter to Sir George  
Hay, Chancleour, concerning  
Catholicks, 12 Januarij 1625.

CCXL.—JOHN WOLFE TO KING JAMES VI.

PLEIS YOUR MAIESTIE,

One Sires, being fervant to Maifter Morgan, apothecarye to the lait queen of happie memorie, vrgeing his preferment, and difapoynted of bothe your maieftis and the queenis fervice, prefumeing vpoun there ignorance who did accompany your maieftie, that thay did not know what was dew to thair placeis, heirvpoun moft craftelye procured himfelf to be fworne fergeant of the confectionarye, being a parcell of the apothecareis office, and als apothecarye for the houghald : and not heirwith contented, he did alfo pas a graunt of being fervitour odoriferous to your maieftie, to the queenis highnes and your royall iflew, being a plaice nevir hard of befor in the court of England (the very fmell whereof hes bein evir onfavory vnto me), onlye vfeing it as a meane by this difmembering the office to difable the poffeffour, and fo to mak him vearye of his plaice : and heirvpoun taking hold of Clavies, your maieftis lait apothecarye his fimplicite, by the meanis of a fubmiffioun, and the otheris craftie dealing with the arbitouris, Clavie was maid to part and devyid the furneifing of wateris, perfumeis, and odouris (whiche did foley and onlye belong to him), with this other new invented feruitour, who, taking boldnes vpoun this advantage, intendit to haif vfed me in lyik foirt,

I being than in service with the queenis highnes, bot being loathe to be abuifed, or to lois any pairt of my dew privilegis of my plaice, and ftanding out for my right, I wes continowit in the full poffeffioun. Now, efter it hes pleafed your maieftie to accept me in that fervice, voyde by Clavies deathe, this odoriferous fellow, miftaking his fmell, wald haif the continuance of that abuife in not contenting himfelf with the plaice of apothecarye of the hous and ferieant of confectionarye, bot wald alfo difmember that only one place which I poffes. And this frefche water fouldiour nevir preiffing to come one myle abroad in all your maiefteis journayis, dois nottheles challenge the perfumes, fueit wateris and odouris for your maiefteis prefence, and linning, and other occasionis that ar for and inrefpect of your maieftie, and no otherwayis; he laying his full accompt that, howevir I did faive myfelf from being wronged in the queenis fervice (vnto the whiche his grant dois beir him alyik), that yit nottheles, vpoun Claveis prefident (whiche I aucht not to acknowledge, heaveing nevir confented thereto), his furnefing in pairt of my office fall continow, and I thereby fo difabled to attend, as by my veareing, he may atteine to that plaice whiche in conceate he hes already devored. Now, fince the multitude of offices ar a chaarge to your maieftie, inregaird no plaice wants a feall, and that it wes weill knownen that no court in all the worlde wes fo perfyite in all memberis as this courte, your maieftie may eafilie conceive what wrong I refaive by this new innovatioun, which evir produces alfo with it fome preiudice to your maieftie. And therefor, as in the tyme of my fervice to the queene, the craftie courfes of this fox did nothing avail him for doing vnto me any preiudice; fo it may pleis your moft gracious maieftie not to fuffer your poore Wolfe to be any way wronged, howevir this countrey hes bein fatall to that kynd of beift, inregaird of the Prince of Waleis his tribut payed, whereby all my kinfolkes by name war maid ane end of; yit, fince I was nevir no ravenous beift, and ftandes now in feire to be robbed, I haif no other recourfe, bot to the Lyouns facred patrocinye, humblie entreateing that I may be continowit in the rightis of my plaice whiche ar dew thereto, that fo I may be the better enabled to attend your maiefteis fervice. And, according to

my bound dewtie, I fall pray for your maiesteis long, happie, and prosperous regnne.

Your Maiesties humble supplicant  
and daylie seruant,

JOHNE WOLFE RUMLER,\*  
Apothecarye.

[Indorfed :]  
Mr Volfes Letter to the King.

'CCXII.—SAMUEL COCKBURN TO KING JAMES VI†

SIR,

Your sacred maiestie, of your accuftomit gratius fauor, ordenarlie extendit towards all your faithful subiectis, whereof in my awne particuler I haue had so manie testemones, will excuse my bauldnes at this tym, forfit be some neceffitie, if I presume to interrupt your maiesteis more ferius

\* "John Wolgango Rumlero was, in 1617, the King's principal apothecary, and received for his fee, by the year, L.40, as appears by the abstract of his Majesty's revenue, attached to Truth brought to Light by Time." Nichols's *Progresses of King James*, vol. iv. p. 721. In the Epilogue to Ben Jonson's *Masque of the Metamorphosed Gipsies*, 1621, it is said—

" But, lest it prove like wonder to the sight,  
To see a gipsey, as an Æthiop white,  
Know, that what dy'd our faces was an ointment  
Made and laid on by Master Woolfe's appointment,  
The court Lycanthropos."

Gifford's *Ben Jonson*. London, 1816. 8vo. vol. vii. p. 424.

† As there are no dates to the Papers that follow, and as some difficulty consequently occurs in the arrangement, it was judged best to place them at the end of the volume.



and weghtie effeares, with the reading of this my humble petitione. Your maiestie, of your gratius and princelie liberalitie, for my great peans bestowet in your maiesteis seruice heir in this cuntrie, and dyuers voyages to your court, grantit wnto me a gift of the escheatis of all such as wer put to the horne for not confirming of testaments; wherewith the bishops, finding themselues somewhat interest in there particuler, dealt with your maiestie for the benefeit thereof, and with me for my good will, which whan I knew to be agreeable to your maiesteis plesur, wpon some conditions, I yealdit wnto. But now of leat, when the bishopis wer about to haue there gift confirmit be your maiesteis counsel and officers of your steat in this kingdome, thay fand the mater of such importance, and so preiudiciall to your maiesties regal authoritie and puir heir, that in no ways could there graue wisdoms be mouet to assent therto, but to signifie the importance and weght of that buffines to your maiesteis selfe to determine therevpon: Wherby the houp of that recompence of my seruice is altogider takin from me, and I compeled to haue recourse to your maiesteis princelie and gratius fauor. It hes plesit your sacred maiestie to imploy me in some charges heir of great peane and trauel, without any profite, and subiect to the envye of the greatest, which notwithstanding, in respect of your maiesteis seruice, I did neuer reگرد. I take your maiesteis whol counsel to record of my behauour and peans in dischargin therof: And my esteat wer such as might wnderly this burdin without my wter overthro, I wauld be forie to importune your gratius maiestie, and principallie at such a tym. And so, referring the trew report heirof to your maiesteis graue and wyse counsel, your maiesteis trefurer deputie, who knawes the whol steat and counselis mynd therin, I in al humilitie, with my earnest prayer for your sacred maiestie and royel esteat, shal euer remane

Your sacred Maiesteis most loyel  
and faithful subiect,

SAMUEL COKBURNE.

To the King his sacred Maiestie.

CCXIII.—WITNESSIS PRODUCEIT BE ALEXANDER INNES OF COITTIS  
AGAINES THE LAIRD OF BALVANE AND HIS BROTHER.

MAISTER JAMES GUTHRIE, Minifler at Vrquhart, fworne, and demandit quhat he knawis anent the libell ; deponis, that he wes defyreit be the good man of Cokftoun and the goodeman of Coittis, to go with thame to the tryft appoyntit to be keipit at Haltoun the day libellit, and to bring with him the testament of vmquhile James Innes of Haltoun, for fieing the goodis mentionat thairin compryfit ; and accordinglie Alexander Innes of Coittis come to the deponneris houe the day lybellit, and tooke the deponner with him to the tryft. Alexander Innes, bruther to Balvany, come thair about the evining, and faluted the hail perfonas at the tryft, and conferrit a litle with Williame Innes of Coittis, and thairefter pretending that he wald ryde that nycht to Elgin, the goode-man of Cokftoun invited him to ftay with him ; who anfuerit he wald not ftay, and raid away, as it feamed to the deponner towardis Elgin, and wes not fene agane, quhill he was fene in company with his bruther at the fact lybellit : And as the guidman of Coittis, the deponner and Andro Innes wer ryding hame by Vrquhart to the Coittis, thay mett in the way the goodeman of Letterfourie, who, after fome litle priuat conference with the goodeman of Coittis, tauld him that in the way he faw fome aught or nyne horffe in the mure, whome he thocht to haue bene his young cheif, the Lord Gordoun ; and he preaffing to haue riddin to thame, and addreffing himfelf towardis thame, thay efchewit him and fled, as not willing to be fene : And with this, Letterfourie takis goodenycht and raid towardis Elgin, and the goodeman of Coittis and the deponner rydding the hie way home to thair houffe, thay tooke vp thir horffe in the mure, who come fordwart taking the way, as it feamed, to Vrquhart, and not directlie to thame ; quhilk quhen the goodeman of Coittis perfaueit, he faid to the deponner, “ It is fome folkis of Geycht going to my houfe : ” My wyff wes ay vntymous to haif left her houfe in mercat tyme ; and then thay haueing tint fight of thir horfemen, throw

occasioun of a litle howe in the way, at thair first kytheing agane vpoun the  
 hight, within a litle speace afoir the deponner, thay kaift thair clokis  
 frome thame, and drew thair swordis, and come galloping towardis the  
 said Alexander Innes of Coittis, quhilk, quhen he persaved, he said, "It  
 is some vnfreindis." The deponner anfuerit that thay wer mistaken, for  
 thair wes no vnlaughfull persone heir; and Andro Innes said, "I trow  
 yow fall find thame vnfreindis." And quhen thay come neir, the deponner  
 knew nane of them bot Balvennie himselff and his bruther Alexander;  
 bot one who callit himselff George Cuming, saying his mother wes a  
 Innes, advanceit foirmost, and he strooke at the goodman of Coittis,  
 bidding him be tane; and the goodman lightand, drew his sword, and  
 rebaitting the first straik, wes hurt with his awne sword a litle aboue the  
 ey, to the effusioun of his bloode; and the haill remanent persones come  
 fordwart and strooke at the goodman of Coittis, bot thair swordis lighted  
 vpoun George Cumingis sword, sua that it appeirit to the deponner thay  
 haid not a purpos to slay him. Then the deponner turneing and abyding  
 with Balvanie, quho had his sword lykewayes drawne, bot strooke not,  
 the deponner said to Balvanie, "Allace, Sir, that yow sould behald this, for  
 thair wes other thingis lippynnit of yow in the country." Balvany anfuerit,  
 "Yow ar a man that feares God, Maister James: I haue borne more of  
 that companyoun nor flesche and bloode could degeist." And Balvany  
 turneing to Coittis, said, "Thou haid no mynd of this, quhen after the  
 bischoppis coppis, in thy drukinnes thou said, thou wes als goode as my-  
 self; quhairin thou leis, and may not compar with me." Coittis answerit,  
 he spak not these wordis in that sence and meaneing. Balvanie thairafter  
 commandit him to sitt down on his knees, and ask him forgifnes; quhilk  
 Coittis flowlie and smoothlie, with some discontentment, did. And de-  
 pones, he knawis not how the goodman of Coittis sword wes takin frome  
 him, or restoirit to him, in respect of his contenowall instance with Bal-  
 vanie; and depones, that Balvanie, at the inputting of his sword, and  
 calmeing of thir thingis, spak thir wordis to the goodman of Coittis,  
 "Sie, Coittis, as thou wilbe anfuerabill to thy wyff and bairnes, vpoun  
 the perrell of thy lyff, that thair be no moir din of thir thingis." Quhair-  
 vnto Coittis anfuerit this only, "Thair is ouer many behalderis sua to do."

And depones, that afoir Balvany finderit frome Coittis, the said Alexander Innes, Balvanyes bruther, haueing his drawne sword shaiking ouer Coittis head, said to the laird his brother, “Alaice, Sir, gif ye wer away;” unto whome the deponner anfuerit, “Thair hes bene ouer meikle of this alreddy.”

Andro Innes, in the barne yaird of Innes, sworne and examinat, deponis, conformis primo testi in omnibus, addende that he threw the goodeman of Coittis sword oute of Alexander Innes brother to the Laird of Balvany his hand.

[Indorfed:]

Mr James Gutheries depositions  
in the cause betwixte Baluanie  
and Cotes.

CCXIV.—INFORMATIOUN FOR THE ADWOCATTIS AND REMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SESSIOUN TUICHING THAIR PRIUILEDGES.

FIRST, The Seffioun and College of Justice ar exemit fra all taxatiounes in the erectioun thair of in anno 1537.

And quhair it may be obiectit that thair is na mentioun thairin of Aduocattis Clerkis, and Wrytteris, it is anfuerit thairto, that the Seffioun and College of Justice most comprehend thairin all memberis, becaus the said exemptioun man be vnderstoud according to the fens, and not according to the letter; vtherwayes the same exemptioun falbe altogidder personall, becaus it speikis allenarlie of the Lordis of Seffioun that then wer, and dois not extend verbalie to thair succeffouris, quhilk wer absurd.

Item, The absurditie of the said first act is cleirit be the subsequnt

act of parliament, quhilk ratifies the saidis priuilegis, and declairis the same to have bene gevin to the College of Justice and memberis, for the quhilk we haif xiii or xiiij actis of parliament.

Item, Our saidis priuilegis ar cleirit be our lang and peaceable possesioun be the space of lxxx yeires; quhilk possesioun is proven be the buikis and registeris of the comptis of the taxatiounes subscrivit be the commissiounaris of parliament, and be the decreittis and sentences gevin baith befor commissiounaris of parliament and Lordis of Sessioun, quhair we ar fund to be exemit fra all taxatiounes.

Item, His maiestie hes remowit all doubt quhilk may be obiectit to our priuileges, in sa far, in August 1588, quhen the realme and the religioun was threatnit be the Spanzeardis, his heires did not vrge ws to pay taxatioun, bot did gratiousslie except of ws, ane voluntar and frie contributioun than offerit be ws to his maiestie, being sitting in ane sessioun in presens of the haill lordis; quhilk acceptatioun is registrat in the buik of statutis of the College of Justice.

Item, Albeit we wer not able to schaw ane exprefs grant of our priuileges, maid at the erectioun of the College of Justice; zit our possesioun be the selff is sufficient to mentene ws; becaus be speciall act of parliament maid in Junij 1594, his maiestie and estaitis hes ratifiet our priuileges maid to the memberis of the College of Justice, not onlie as the same ar contenit in the erectioun thair of, bot also as the same hes bene bruikit and possesit be ws senfyne; sua that our possesioun vith this act gevis ws ane full priuilege.

Item, His maiestie hes declarit ws to be exemit fra all contributioun of taxatiounes with the burrowis, quhair of we haif ane speciall act in Junij 1592, cap. 15, 3; be the quhilk act, his maiestie and estaitis, considering that the taxatiounes vpon the realme wer multiplied, and the burrowis hauelie burdenit, and thairfor hes statut and ordanit that all inhabitantis within burrowis fall contribut to taxatiounes for thair releiff; bot that,

with this expres declaratioun, that the fame fall nawayes prejudice the memberis of the College of Justice thair priuiledges and immunities grantit to thame, or quhairof they haif bene in vse in tyme bygane, and giue we be frie fra all contributioun of taxatioun with the burrowis (as we ar be this aēt), we man also be frie from the rest, feing we haif bene in possessioun alyk of baithe; and it wer ane absurd thing to mantene that we wer exemit from ane pairt, and not from the rest, that is to say, baith exemit and not exemit.

Item, The ordour of taxatioun in speciall aēt of parliament, maid in December 1595, fett down and declairit be his maiestie and estaitis. In the quhilk aēt, the memberis of the College of Justice ar declarit to be priuilegit and exemit, and als his maiestie hes thairby declarit his gracious will and mynd that he intendis not to hurt priuileges dirogat nor prejudgit, and thairfoir, feing his maiestie being present amangis ws, wes gratioullie pleisit to mantene our priuileges, it war ane hard preparatiue to infringe them now in his hienes absens.

Item, We ar certanlie informit that it is [his] hienes will, that no man nor perfonis be hurt or prejudgit in thair priuileges, bot that all be movit and p̃rsuadit\* to contribute at this tyme, in respect of the weichtines and necessitie of the caus; quhilk we, to signifie our affectiounes to his maiestie, ar most willing to do, our priuileges being referuit.\*

Item, It is humlie defyrit that the estaitis confidder how dangerous it is to begin notatioun, and to quarrell mens priuileges and prescriptioun heirof be fourfcoir yeires possessioun, for omiffioun of ane word, for this thaireftir may be drawin to thair awin priuiledgis, feing thair ar fundrie priuileges pertening to ilk ane of the estaitis feueralie, and to them all in generall, quhilk hes no warrand be writt or law, bot only lenis to custome and prescriptioun of tyme; and thairfoir it is defyrit, that they on na wayes gif thair consent nor writt be this notatioun.

\* This probably refers to the contribution for the Palatinate.

CCXV.—THE ACCOMPT OF MY DILIGENS IN THE SERUICE COMMITTED  
TO MEE, WITH A MOTION COMMENDED TO HIS MAIESTIE FROM HIS  
EMBASSADOUR AT THE HAGHE.\*

AFTER my dispatche at Beauer Castle, I did with all diligens adresse myselfe to the Lowe Cuntries, where, within foure dayes after I did ar-

\* This singularly valuable paper contains a narrative, by Patrick Scot, of his expedition to Holland, in order to secure, if not assassinate, David Calderwood, the Church Historian, who fled there to escape the vengeance of James VI., which had been roused against him, as author of the "Perth Assembly, containing—1. The proceedings thereof. 2. The proof of the nullitie thereof. 3. Reasons presented thereto against the receiving the five new Articles imposed. 4. The oppositenesse of it to the proceedings and oath of the whole state of the land, an. 1581. 5. Proofs of the unlawfulness of the said five Articles, viz.—1. Kneeling in the act of receiving the Lord's supper. 2. Holy daies. 3. Bishopping. 4. Private Baptisme. 5. Private Communion." 1619. 4to. Calderwood having been carefully concealed, his death was rumoured, and Scot thought this an admirable opportunity for gratifying his Majesty, and vexing the refractory clergy, by forging a recantation, which was skilfully done, in a work with the following title :—"Calderwood's Recantation, or a Tripartite Discourse, directed to such of the Ministerie and others in Scotland, that refuse Conformitie to the Ordinances of the Church. Wherein the causes and had effects of such Separation, the legall proceedings against the refractarie, and nullitie of their cause, are softly launced, and they louingly inuited to the Vniformitie of the Church. Epist. Iam. cap. 3: Vbi Zelus et Contentio, ibi Inconstantia et omne opus prauum. London, printed by Bernard Alsop, dwelling in Distaffe Lane, at the signe of the Dolphin, 1622." 4to. The introductory notice is dated "Amsterdam, this 29th of Nouember 1622," and the general appearance of the work was such as to induce a belief of its reality. Unfortunately for this conspiracy against his fair fame, Calderwood was alive and able to expose it, which he lost no time in doing.

The following account of the matter is from his Church History (MS. Advocates' Library), vol. xv. p. 1209 :—"Patrick Scot, a landed gentleman, beside Falkland, having waisted the money that he had, had no other meanes to recover his estate, but by some unlawful shift at court. He set furth a Recantation under the name of a banished minister, Mr David Calderwood, but soon after came furth a Latine worke intituled *Altare Damascenum*, which testified to the world, that he was farre from minding any recantatione, and that he was yett living : for the Recantatione was sett furth upon a report that he was dead. The truth is, he was deadly sicke, and if he had died, the Recantatione had gone for current as his. But the devise turned to the shame of the devisers ; he confessed himself, that the King furnished him matter, and he set it down in forme. Thia course failling, he went over to Holland—sought the said Mr David at the Hague, at Delf, at Amsterdam, and other towns, in the moneth of November ; pretending to such as he thought favoured the said Mr David, that he had a thousand pounds to deliver to him, which was collected among weill affected people at home ; and offered money to come to reveal where the said Mr David was. Noe doubt the man was employed to seeke his life, and murder him privatly ; which was easie for him to doe, if he had been there under cloud of night, when the said Mr David was to come from the Scottish inne to his owne chamber,

ryue, findinge by my intelligens at Roterodam, that the perfon after whome I enquiryed was latelie remoued, I came to the Haghe, where I deliuered his majesties letter to the embaffadour, with that which was referred to my relation, which hee verie dutifully receaued, and promifed his beft indeuouris to further this feruice, tellinge mee there was a yeare and more paff, fince vpon viewe of that pairties labouris, his eie had bine vpon him; but (lyke a foxe when hee offendeth) hee had learned a trick to keepe himfelfe obfcure or out of the way.

The Embaffadouris aduyfe was (for fhunninge of difcouery), that before ane motion were made to the States, I fhould labour by all meanes to learne the certaintie of his refidens; foe, refoluinge vpon the fitteft places and perfons by whome intelligens might be had, I did returne backe to Campheare, from that to Dort, from thence to Roterodam, and then to Leyden; in all which places I learned hee had bine, but could find noe prefent certantie of him.

either by shooting him in the water, or otherwise, not fearing evill of the man he had never seen before. After he had stayed at Amsterdam seventy days, and inquired diligently, he was informed that the said Mr David was at home in his own native countrie of Scotland; and soe he returned to court disappointed. His dependence, for the most part, was upon the Viscount of Annan, a man unknown likewise to the said Mr David, be whom he was hounded out." See also the learned biographical account of Calderwood, in the last edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

The following anecdote of Scot is given at length, by Calderwood, in his MS. history:—An Englishman had bought a piece of land, and promised to pay part of the price on a certain day. When the time came, he could not raise the money, and he was threatened with 'the extremity of the law.' He went to London, and walking 'in Paul's church, and pensive, made his own mone to a Scotishe man walking there,' and 'offered him a reward if he could procure the King's protection.' The Scotch man replied that he had no court influence, but observing Scot, who probably had been dining with Duke Humphrey, he said, 'I see one walking hard by, his name is Mr Scot, he can doe your turne.' An introduction followed—Scot demanded fifty pounds for his patronage, but took thirty, and the Englishman's horse worth five pounds, giving him 'a packald, as it were of letters sealed,' to be delivered to the persons to whom they were addressed. Alas, these missives were as deceptive as his satanic majesty's coin, for when opened by the individuals to whom they were presented, there was nothing inside. As a fitting termination to this adventure, the poor applicant for royal protection was cast into prison. Of course, this story coming from the pen of an enemy must be received with caution, but we much fear that the moral principles of the fabricator of "Calderwood's Recantation" would not operate as any bar to his defrauding the poor Englishman of his money.

"After the death of King James, he sett out a pamphlet full of lies, intituled 'Vox Vera,' but as true as Lucian's *Vera Historia*. For all his gndlesse and unlawfull shiftis, he died soon after, soe poor, that he had not wherewith to bear the charges of his buriall, but it behoved the Bishope of Ross to bear the charge of it, for the good service he had done to the King and the Bishops."



At last (after twentie dayes were thus consumed) I repaired to Vtereght, where Mr. Scot that wrote *Vox Populi*\* dothe remaine, with whome I did foe insinuat myselfe, that within twoe dayes hee did tell mee, that my freind whome I said I was desirous to see was at Amsterdam, but (as the embassadour had said before) hee thought hee should be hardlie inquyred after; yet did hee direct mee to an inne keeper, to a booke feller, and to a printer, of his acquaintance, some of whome (hee said) might perhapps bringe mee to the knowledge of the man whome I desired to see.

At my cominge to Amsterdam, and three dayes conuerfinge with those to whome Mr Scot directed mee, I did learne that the partie was in toun; yet by noe meanes durst I reueale myselfe further to them (they beinge stricke Puritans), then that I had hard much good of the man, and was desirous to see and haue some of his workes. The booke feller told mee, that one John Hamleton, a religious merchaunt of Edenboughe, had transported the most part of them to Scotland this last yeare; yet at night he promised to goe to a freind that had the felling of the remanent, wherby I coniectured that it was the author that had bothe the keepinge and felling of those bookes, foe I did carefullie watche the booke feller's oute goinge at night, whoe did goe directlie to the printer's house, where the parties residens is, as before I had learned from dyuers persons by infalible circumstances. When I had done this, I returned to the embassadour, tould him I had found the parties residens, and desired that hee would be pleased to procure the States warrant, and I should doe my best to enforce the printer's house, and seafe vpon his ghueft.

The embassadour aunswered, that he would willinglie moue the States to this effect, but hee much feared that the motion might marre the bufinnes, inregard the partie was kept foe close amongst those of his owen profession, and that it was to be doubted that some amongst the States, without whome he could get noo warrant, were his speciall freinds, and would aduertise him before anie warrant could be ferued. Secondlie,

\* *Vox Populi*, or *Newes from Spaine*. 1620, 4to. By Thomas Scot. He was author of oumerous political tracts, of which there was a very complete collection in the Gordonston Library, sold in March 1816.

The embassadour told mee there was another motion in hand (wherofe Mr. Johne Forbes was directed to giue his maiestie information), that might in short time procure a generall warrant from the States for apprehension of all delinquents of this nature, withoute suspition of aime at any particular person.

For these reasons, hee thought good to let the motion I defyred sleepe till his majestie were aduertised of the conueniencie of the other.

Becaus sicknes and the roughnes of this winter season did lett Mr. John Forbes from vndertakinge iornay towards England, as hee intended, the embassadour did thinke fitt that I should supplie Mr. John his place in preferringe these instructions to his majesties consideration, which I should haue, and his letter to this purpose. When I had receaued his letter, conceaued the instructions, and gotten direction to Mr. John Forbes to giue me particular information of the former proceedings, I tooke my leaue, and came to Delphe, where Mr. John Forbes did deliuer mee the substance of the ensuinge motion.

#### THE MOTION.

Vpon a ferious consideration of the loosenes of lyfe, and scandalus behaiour of manie bothe Englishe and Scots ministers resident in the Vnited Provinces, and more frequent resort of others then before, the Dutche ministers, oute of their care to haue suche scandalus presidents in the Church repressed, were content to ioine with the Englishe and Scots ministrie, in petitioninge vnto the States, that an act from them might be established, authorizinge them to reforme suche abuses wherofe they did complaine, and depose from the ministrie all such as should be found faultie in lyfe or doctrine, or that did preiudice the vnitie of the Church and dignitie of their cuntry, by preachinge, wrytinge, or anie other meanes, then their profession and good order would allowe. This correspondens of the Dutche Church was foe well lyked by the best sort of the Englishe and Scots ministers, that furthwith they apointed Mr. John Forbes to deale with the rest of the ministrie to assemble at the

Haghe, where, by assistance of his maiesties embassadour, they might concur for the advancement of soe necessarie a motion; which accordingly Mr. John Forbes performed, in assembling aswell the Dutche as English and Scots ministers at the Haghe.

But at their first meetinge the motion was obuiat by a proposition (as it appeared finifterlie thrust in) made by one Mr. Alexander Mackduffe, minister at Campheare, whose desired in his maiesties behalfe, that there might be a constant moderatour chosen, and that three, at least twoe, names might be sett doune and sent to his maiestie, that hee might make choyce of one of them.

This proposition was so distastfull to the Dutche Church, that they presently broke vpp, and refused to ioyne anie further in that motion, which they did conceaue directlie tended to the erection of bishops: Yet the most part of the English and Scots ministrie did conclude for giuinge his maiestie all possible satisfaction on their parts, that Mr. John Forbes should be sent to England to giue true information of the conueniencie of the first course, and to supplicat his royall approbation and assistance, that it may goe one as it was first propounded, for three speciall reasons:—

1. Reason.—First, It will curbe all lewde, insolent, or vnqualified persons, that daylie, without order, intrude themselves in the ministrie, and liue lyke libertins, without makinge consciens of their profession, to the disgrace of the Church, and reproache of their cuntry.

2. Reason.—Secondlie, If this beginninge had once taken effect, it wilbe a speciall meanes to repress aswell the insolent wrtings of fugitiues, reforters, or residents, as the scismes that daylie fale oute heare, which cannot but vnquyet bothe Church and State at home.

3. Reason.—Thirdlie, His maiesties approbation and assistance of this motion, will vindicat him from those iealousies which the Dutche Church (prompted with some ill affected persons) conceaue that his maiesties intention is to bringe in Episcopall gouernment amongst them, if not Po-

pisme itself: Of the first their cuntry is not capable, church revenues beinge destitute to other publicke uses, and irrecoverable; and the other they cannot hear named with patients.

This is the summe of that which the Embassadour and Mr. John Forbes by his direction did deliver unto mee, both seriously regrating the misdemeanours of such whose disloyall labours are daylie vented, to the griefe of every good subject.

Thus, after long stay at Flushing, and foure repulses by contrary winds, am I returned, referringe the premises, with such other observations as I have sett downe apart, to his maiesties royall consideration.

#### THREE SHORT OBSERVATIONS.

1. First, I observe, that the correspondens betwix the Puritans of Scotland and those of the Lowe Cuntries, dothe rather increase than diminish, whereby it faileth out, that by comunitie of Puritan seminaries, and correspondens from Scotland, the most part of his maiesties subjects inhabitinge in the Lowe Cuntries, are not onelie addicted to Puritanisme, readie to intertaine the badest impressions of their owne state, but to cherish aswell sedition, libellis, and rebellious notions, as the authors thereof.

2. Secondlie, I find that the contempt of bishops, and the wrytinge both against their persons and government, is much applauded in the United Provinces, which cometh (as I conceive) thorough the neglect of correspondens, wherofe they have litle or none either to aduance their well, or oppose their prejudice.

3. Thirdlie, I have learned that the cause of the comunitie of forbidden bookes, both here and in the Lowe Cuntries, proceedeth from the correspondens that is kept betwix the printers and stationers in England, Scotland, and there. If there be here a copy that cannot be printed without danger, it is conveyed to Amsterdam, where it is safely printed,

returned, and fould at a tenn-fould deerer rate then anie other booke whatfoeuer. I haue diligentlie marked this abuse, and I do werelie thinke that without ftricke animaduersion, it will rather increafe then become leffe.

[Indorfed :]

Patricke Scott,  
his Accompt of his Diligens.\*

\* A letter from Sir Dudley Carleton, Ambassador to the States, relative to Patrick Scot's transactions in Holland, and addressed to James VI. is printed in the *Analecta Scotica*, vol. ii. p. 433. Scot complains that he beheld, in Holland, every "Bookseller's shop and most Pedlars' stalls loaden with the Nullitie of *Perthe's* Assembly, the Altar of *Damascus*, the Dialogue betwixt *Theophilus* and *Cosmophilus*, the Speech of the Church of Scotland to her Beloued Children, and the Course of Conformatie joyned with all these (severally printed before), reprinted in one volume, and to be sold at no lesse a rate then if they had been oracles of *Apollo*." See "*Vox Vera*, or Observations from Amsterdam, examining the late insolencies of some Pseudo-Puritanes, seperatists from the church of Great Brittain, and closed vp with a serious three-fold advertisement for the generall vse of enery good subiect within his Maiesties dominions, but more especially of those in the kingdome of Scotland." London, 1625, 4to. p. 3. It is dedicated to King Charles I. He was also probably the author of "*A Table-Book for Princes, containing Short Remembrances for the Government of Themselves and their Empire*," &c. London, 1621. 12mo; a copy of which is No. 2095 of the Gordonston Catalogue.

The Altar of Damascus, above mentioned, was the English edition, now very scarce, which was subsequently enlarged, translated into Latin, and published, first, in 1623 (no place), and secondly, "*Lugd.-Bat. 1708*," both in 4to. At the end of the English work is the following very curious paragraph, in which the venerable primate of Scotland is spoken of in terms by no means flattering:—"Bishop Spotswood hath spread a rumour, that *M. David Calderwood* is turned Brownist; but I assure thee, good reader, it is not true. That old impudent lyar hath, together with his supposed authour, a young man, trimmed up a tale with many circumstances, to make the misreport the more credible. But if ever he required by letter, the judgement, either of that supposed authour, or of any other man else, anent their opinions, then let him never be reputed for an honest man hereafter. If he had doubted, he would not have sought resolution from yong schollers, and unsetled brains. The ground being false, all the rest of the circumstances builded upon it are knavish forgeries also. If either Spotswood, or his supposed authour, persist in their calummie after this declaration, I shall try if there be any bloud in their foreheads."

It is, perhaps, almost unnecessary to add, that the "young man" is evidently intended for Patrick Scot.



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